
Douluo Dalu

V16 – Consummate Fusion

Tang Jia San Shao

106 – Drifting Snow Ice Phoenix

Part 1

Blue Silver Grass really was durable, the Blue Silver Grass making up the Spider Web Restraint especially was even tougher. Relying on his full spirit power output, Tang San's defense of his side was watertight. However, no matter how durable, Blue Silver Grass was still only vines and leaves.

The power of the spirit fusion ability used by the combined strength of two fortieth ranked Spirit Masters wasn't inferior to the spirit ability of a sixtieth ranked Spirit Master.

Drifting Snow didn't have as tyrannical force of impact as Hell White Tiger, but surpassed it in endurance.

Amidst the tooth ache inducing and ear piercing grinding sound, the sticky and tough Spider Web Restraint was already starting to show signs of breaking.

Countless snowflakes constantly cut at each corner of Tang San's defense like a meat grinder, and under those sharper than knives snowflakes, the outermost layer of defense was very quickly being cut, shattered.

What Drifting Snow had to erode next, was Tang San's ten thousand year spirit ring ability, Blue Silver Prison.

When Tang San had only just learned Blue Silver Prison, at most he could use seven at once. In resilience, Blue Silver Prison was inferior to Spiderweb Restraint, but it won out in being able to instantly appear at the opponent's position, and could moreover be used for group control.

Along with Tang San's cultivation of Three Aperture Governing Heart gradually maturing, his skill in using this fourth spirit ability had also

increased. This was after all a ten thousand year spirit ring ability, and there were a lot more ways to manipulate it than Spiderweb Restraint.

The reason Tang San could fully use more than ten Blue Silver Prisons wasn't that his spirit power had increased a lot, but rather because his spirit power was released more accurately each time he used this spirit ability in real combat.

In other words, Blue Silver Prisons that might appear exactly the same, could actually have entirely different effects. The more spirit power it used the more durable it was, using less spirit power made it weaker. Setting the strength of his own Blue Silver Prison according to the opponents' differences could greatly save on Tang San's spirit power.

Consequently, when discovering the opponents had a spirit fusion ability, Tang San could still create multiple Blue Silver Prisons to protect everyone. This was already his full strength.

The seemingly frail snowflakes came into contact with the outermost layer of Blue Silver Prison. Unexpectedly, the rigid Blue Silver Prison was a lot better at resisting the cutting effect of Drifting Snow than the flexible Spiderweb Restraint.

Flexibility feared sharpness. Sharpness feared firmness. Perhaps this was the cause.

If someone could see Shui Bing-Er's expression within the blue pillar of light right now, they would certainly discover that it had become very unsightly. Even though she had already estimated Tang San quite highly before this competition, Tang San's adaptability and reaction capability still left her shocked.

The spirit fusion ability Drifting Snow was managed by Shui Bing-Er, therefore she could clearly sense the resistance when the snowflakes struck.

She had seen Tang San create altogether seven layers of Blue Silver Prison. Even though the first layer was already broken through by now, Shui Bing-Er discovered that if it continued like this, by the time

her and Xue Wu's spirit power was exhausted, they still might not have been able to break Tang San's defensive formation.

Ten thousand year spirit abilities really weren't ordinary. Even though it was a control type, its defensive power could actually reach this degree. It seemed that even though Blue Silver Prison wasn't flashy, its practicality could leave people speechless.

Having used the spirit fusion ability, if they still couldn't win this match, then how could Skywater Academy have any chance of winning when confronting an even stronger Shrek Academy in the future?

A resonant phoenix cry resounded from within the blue pillar of light. Tang San only felt the pressure lighten, as the tornado of cutting snowflakes soared higher into the air.

Feeling an even more formidable mental pressure after hearing that clear phoenix cry and feeling the pressure of the attack lighten, Tang San suddenly came to himself.

Ice Phoenix, that Shui Bing-Er's spirit was actually a first rate spirit, Ice Phoenix.

No wonder, no wonder her spirit ability control was so powerful, no wonder she could possess a spirit fusion ability. She actually possessed such a tyrannically powerful spirit.

Both being phoenixes, the Ice Phoenix wasn't inferior in any respect to Huo Wu's Fire Phoenix. These spirits were two extremes, but both were first rate existences. In power, Shui Bing-Er was even a bit stronger than Huo Wu.

But she also possessed a partner for spirit fusion ability, Xue Wu.

In midair, the snowflakes gathered, gradually forming into a seven meter long enormous blue phoenix.

Different from the fourth spirit ability Huo Wu used that day, this Ice Phoenix appeared extremely distinctly, as if substantial. Bright eyes, long tail feathers, its appearance touching.

The dazzlingly beautiful blue phoenix fell from the air, and without fanfare, it became an ice blue light, floating down.

Its movements weren't fast, but without advancing, the snowflakes drifting through the air made its body even more substantial.

A muffled sigh echoed from within the Blue Silver Prisons, and a bizarre scene appeared. The remaining Blue Silver Prisons unexpectedly sunk back into the ground, layer after layer. Even the final protective Blue Silver Grass was quietly withdrawn by Tang San.

Headed by Dai Mubai, besides Tang San, the remaining six swiftly dashed off the stage as the Ice Phoenix approached. Only Tang San remained on the stage.

Compared to the seven meter long Ice Phoenix, Tang San seemed insignificant, as dazzling blue light completely illuminated the platform.

Right now, not even the spectators who supported Shrek Academy, supported Tang San, still believed they could win this match.

What the spectators understood even less was why Tang San would completely remove his own defensive setup when the opponent was on the verge of attacking. People with a bit of knowledge about spirits could also see that right now, even if Tang San still had spirit power remaining, it absolutely wasn't much.

In his current condition, what could he still do?

Tang San didn't want to concede the match. He could do it, it wouldn't influence the outcome of the qualifiers, after all. But he didn't want to. For no reason other than that he didn't want to accept defeat.

The Ice Phoenix gliding through the air paused, and Shui Bing-Er's somewhat angry voice transmitted from the blue light,

"Do you want to die? Get away quickly, I won't be able to control it."

She was already going all out, and she was already unable to

control the energy of the condensed Ice Phoenix.

Tang San's face revealed a trace of a slight smiling expression, inwardly saying, 'This girl really is kind-hearted. Only, I can't lose.'

"Come."

A tearing sound came from behind Tang San's back, as eight vicious purple black long lances pushed out. Each lance glittered alternately with blue and red light, the lances thrusting out sharply to either side.

Eight sharp points thrust sharply into the ground, raising Tang San's body. It was Eight Spider Lances.

The Ice Phoenix was already out of control, falling from the sky, tremendous energy poured down.

Cold streams burst out, long since locked completely on Tang San. The spirit fusion ability Drifting Snow was extremely powerful. When used, it would immediately lock onto the opponent. But at this moment, a bizarre scene appeared.

Eight Spider Lances bent sharply, before shooting out again, sending Tang San soaring into the air like a cannon ball. He, unexpectedly ignoring the cold streams, broke through that Ice Phoenix and the locked on energy, rising more than twenty meters into the air.

The stage was already icebound, instantly covered in a layer of blue luster. The next moment, with a loud rumble, it completely collapsed.

Even the few remaining Skywater Academy members with water element capabilities rushed to leap off the moment it began to fall.

This could be said to be the most destructive scene since the start of the qualifiers, and also the most dazzling one. Unfortunately, it didn't successfully hit its intended target.

The appearance of Eight Spider Lances made Tang San feel full of energy again, supported by the power of the external spirit bone. When he fell from the back, Eight Spider Lances had already quietly withdrawn into his back.

The entire vast Heaven Dou Great Spirit Arena was already covered

in a thin layer of frost.

Gust after gust of cold made the spectators expressions rigid.

Standing in the ruins of the stage, Shui Bing-Er managed to stand with Xue Wu's support. Looking at Tang San falling from the sky, there was a burst of despondency in her eyes.

She didn't understand how something like this would happen. How her and Xue Wu's spirit fusion ability, further adding her own spirit's power, was unable to defeat the gently landing opponent.

Drifting Snow's cold was enough to make anyone slow down. In that split second before, the temperature on the stage had dropped to a frightening level, and further adding the control of the cold streams, she refused to believe that any Spirit Master under sixtieth rank could break through and escape its attack range.

But, that man had accomplished it. His movements looked effortless, as if he didn't use any strength. But only Shui Bing-Er herself knew just how difficult it was to escape Drifting Snow.

The two young womens' faces were now pale, spirit power overdraft making it very difficult for them to even stand.

Tang San had already landed in the ruins, and step by step walked towards them. Even though his spirit power fluctuations were already weak, as long as she thought of the close combat fighting ability he displayed before, Shui Bing-Er knew it would be impossible for her and Xue Wu to defeat him.

Part 2

By now, only three people still remained on the stage. The outcome was already settled.

"Can't you tell me how?"

Shui Bing-Er said somewhat bitterly.

Tang San stopped three meters in front of the two women. The

alarming-looking Eight Spider Lances had been withdrawn even before people could see them clearly. But, he knew that in this match, he had still lost. Having been pushed by the opponents to use Eight Spider Lances that should only appear in the finals, he believed his people had already lost.

Obtaining victory in this match wasn't the contribution of Eight Spider Lances, nor was it his contribution.

It was the effect of taking those two immortal treasure herbs. The tempering of the Infernal Precious Apricot as well as the Octagonal Mysterious Ice Grass made him completely immune to all cold and hot energies. If Shui Bing-Er had used another attribute spirit fusion ability, then at that time, when Tang San was already out of spirit power, he would be unable to win even if he used Eight Spider Lances.

Therefore, in his heart, he believed he had lost. He hadn't lost in strength, but rather in adaptability and foresight.

The continuous victories had made it difficult for the Shrek Academy team members not to be proud, and even Tang San was no exception. After all, he was still human, and he was as susceptible to emotions as anyone else.

Before today's match, he had drawn an equals sign between Skywater Academy and Blazing Academy. But who could have expected that Shui Bing-Er's control could actually restrain him like that, and even possessed such a formidable ability like the spirit fusion ability.

Confronted by Shui Bing-Er's inquiry, Tang San didn't conceal it. He not only thought he had lost because of himself, but also because of Shui Bing-Er's kindness. That moment before the Ice Phoenix descended, he could clearly feel the concern in Shui Bing-Er's words. That wasn't concern for victory and defeat, but rather true worry that he would be hurt.

"I'm capable of ice immunity. Therefore, your ability was unable to restrain me."

Tang San used a voice only the three of them could hear.

Two pairs of beautiful eyes watched him attentively, a trace of bitterness at the corner of Shui Bing-Er's mouth.

"Then how were you restrained by me before?"

Shui Bing-Er couldn't help asking. If her first spirit ability, Icebind, was effective on Tang San, then how come the Ice Phoenix lock wasn't?

Tang San laughed bitterly,

"My ice and fire immunity is only effective on energies, substantial shapes and energy shocks will still injure me. Your ice binding had solid form, not an energy form, of course I would be restrained. Just that the chill within wouldn't injure me."

"We've lost."

However willing to admit it, Shui Bing-Er still with difficulty spoke these words.

Tang San shook his head, saying:

"No, It should be our loss. It was my mistake that led to this conclusion. My ice and fire resistance doesn't originate in cultivation."

Right now, the referee had already cautiously approached. Even if he was an official with fifty something ranked strength, right now he was still somewhat apprehensive.

The current young generation was really too ferocious. If by some chance they still had some skills they hadn't used, he himself might also be implicated.

"Finished?"

The referee looked at both sides.

Tang San and Shui Bing-Er nodded simultaneously, speaking in unison:

"I lost."

The referee baffled looked at the two,

“You.....”

Tang San spoke first:

“This match is a tie. Both our sides have already exhausted our spirit power. We can’t continue the match.”

The referee then suddenly understood. Even if a tied match was rare, it still wasn’t unheard of. Immediately, he declared that the fight between Shrek Academy and Skywater Academy ended in a tie.

He could win and not, this was Tang San’s stern warning to himself. The qualifiers were only the beginning, there was still the ranking competition, as well as the qualifiers where powers would stand like trees in the forest. Discovering his flaws now was always better than discovering them even later in the tournament. After all, the finals were a knock-out competition, no mistakes could be tolerated there.

The spectators were no doubt disappointed, the majority of the spectators supporting Shrek Academy but being unable to see them take the victory in the final match made a lot of people rather critical. Especially voices that doubted whether Shrek Academy had sent their full strength echoed from all corners.

Returning to the rest area, Tang San ate a recovery sausage Oscar handed over,

“I’m sorry, it was my mistake. I underestimated the opponent from the start of the match, and couldn’t deliver relevant tactics, leading to our later passivity.”

Dai Mubai clapped Tang San’s shoulder,

“Brother, what are you doing saying this? It’s more important we find the root of defeat. Don’t forget, we’re still young, and right now we can still stand to be defeated. You’ve already done very well, nobody will blame you.”

Ma Hongjun took the opportunity to move closer, grinning:

“Third brother, don’t be depressed. This is because you brothers

didn't have me there. If I was there, how could those beauties be arrogant. Next time let them get to know my phoenix flame. Just what is called 'failure is the mother of success'. Moreover, we still didn't lose! You also didn't go all out. No? Actually, not just you, even Dai Mubai, Xiao Wu and the others also didn't use their full strength. We still need you to lead everyone to become ultimate champions."

Dai Mubai raised his hand and swatted Fatty's head,

"You're so capable? Fine, then next time you go up by yourself, we'll watch how you alone roast seven."

Ma Hongjun rubbed his head, wronged saying:

"Don't blame me for comforting third brother."

"Failure is the mother of success, these words are quite right. There's one month to the ranking competition. This is plenty of time for you all to find your own deficiencies."

Grandmaster had already come over before anyone noticed, his gaze falling on Tang San, looking at him with a smile.

"Teacher."

Confronted by Grandmaster's gaze, Tang San lowered his head.

Grandmaster walked up to his side, one hand resting on his shoulder,

"Actually, the result of your match today is even better than your victories. I've always said that real combat is the best way to inspect your own abilities. Only by constant combat, confronting different opponents, will you grow even faster. The Spirit Master vocation comes in all kinds of bizarre variations, nobody knows what kind of enemy you will face in your next battle. All you can do is increase your experience by facing different Spirit Masters. None of you lack talent as Spirit Masters, and the opponents you meet in the Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament are also all well-known figures of the young generation. This match is only a fragment of your lives, you still have a long road to walk, as long as you gain something, victory or defeat is of little

consequence.”

“Yes, Grandmaster.”

All the students answered as one. Their previously somewhat different expressions once again became unanimous. For some reason, the otherwise always mild mannered Tang San now had an extreme thirst for victory in his heart.

The Heaven Dou City qualifiers had now ended, and according to the sequence, it was time for the reward ceremony, awarding the top five teams the qualification proof for the ranking competition.

But due to the damage to the central stage in the previous match, this process was also simplified. The other academies that didn't advance wouldn't participate in the awards ceremony, only the top five teams would go up to accept their rewards on the VIP seating platform.

The ceremony wasn't complex. At the announcer's declaration, the captain and vice captain of the top ranking teams stepped onto the platform.

Due to Godwind Academy and Thunderclap Academy having the same result, both with twenty six wins and one loss, and Godwind Academy once having prevailed over Thunderclap Academy, the ranking was settled as: Godwind Academy ranked first, Thunderclap Academy second, Shrek Academy ranked third with twenty four wins, one tie and two losses, Blazing Academy ranked fourth with half a victory more than Skywater Academy, and Skywater Academy still fifth.

Representing Shrek Academy to go up on the platform was Dai Mubai and Tang San. As the two stepped onto the platform, they immediately sensed several malicious gazes. The most burning among them was Blazing Academy's Huo Wu.

She had never accepted being defeated by Tang San, and didn't reflect on her own strength, but rather blamed Tang San's fire immunity. Even though Blazing Academy successfully advanced, being pushed down by Shrek Academy with half a victory stirred up

the fury in her heart even stronger.

“Next, His Majesty and Seven Treasure Glazed Tile Pagoda master as well as platinum bishop Salas will personally award the proof of qualifications to enter the ranking competition as well as the award money.”

The proof of qualifications was actually a personal letter. There was no worry anyone would forge it, after all, Spirit Hall and Heaven Dou Empire both knew which academies had advanced. But Tang San and Dai Mubai didn't know about the award money before.

The award money the top five academies received was the same, after all, this was only the qualifiers. Each team received ten thousand gold spirit coins issued by Heaven Dou Empire. But in the finals, the prize for the final three was awarded by Spirit hall.

The awards presented, the announcer gave the word to emperor Xue Ye in the seat of honor.

Emperor Xue Ye's gaze swept across the members of the teams standing in front of him, his eyes especially paused on Tang San for a few seconds, then smiling said:

“First of all, children, I want to congratulate you.”

“You've successfully obtained the qualifications to advance in this Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament. As the most senior ruler of Heaven Dou Empire, I am proud of you. You are all the future hope of the Empire. And as the leaders of each team, your strength has also showed its most important effect in the competition. Therefore, I've decided to confer upon the ten of you the title of viscount^[1], and to the other competing members of your five academies the title of baron. After you have graduated, the gates of the royal household will stand open to you at any time. Your fiefdoms will all be allocated after your graduation.”

Part 3

“Your Majesty, that won't do.”

Salas suddenly interjected harshly from the side. Daring to interrupt an emperor's words, this clearly showed the tremendous influence of Spirit Hall.

Emperor Xue Ye looked indifferently at Salas,

“Is there something inappropriate? Your eminence bishop Salas.”

Salas said:

“In past competitions, there's no precedent of awarding titled of nobility. Even more, aren't the titles given too high?”

Whether it was Heaven Dou Empire or Star Luo Empire, the titles of nobility were ranked from the highest as Duke, Marquis, Count, Viscount, Baron. Handing out ten noble titles of viscount just for the qualifiers, Emperor Xue Ye's generosity was enough to shock anyone in attendance.

Emperor Xue Ye only used one sentence to shut Salas up,

“Your eminence, conferring titles of nobility is an internal matter of the Empire, unrelated to Spirit Hall. Unrelated to the current tournament. I only admire these children and accorded them some rewards, that's all. They represent our Heaven Dou Empire in this time's Advanced Spirit Master Academy Tournament. I will also give you a pledge here. If there is any team among you that can obtain final victory in the tournament, the noble titles of everyone in the team will be promoted one level, and at the same time the academy will be given the 'Imperial' prefix, receiving the financial backing of the Empire.”

As the leaders of their teams, even if these youths had all seen some of the world, as Emperor Xue Ye's great string of rewards smashed down, they were still left somewhat stupid. What did titles of nobility represent? A viscount could already possess their own territory and attendants, and still draw a certain stipend from the Empire. This sum alone was enough to live on.

Even though a lot of Spirit Masters had titles of nobility, obtaining them from kingdoms and duchies was easy. Obtaining an imperial title wasn't so simple, especially being directly conferred the title of

viscount. The territory a viscount could possess was already a small town.

Even more valuable, emperor Xue Ye had already guaranteed to these ten that after the end of this tournament, they would directly be conferred fiefdoms.

In other words, their titles absolutely weren't just empty words, but rather truly nobles with territory.

Salas' expression appeared very unsightly. He didn't say anything else, but in his eyes was a cold and cruel expression.

As the captains and vice captains of the five qualified teams, they were all elite young Spirit Masters, one more intelligent than the other, and from emperor Xue Ye's promise and Salas' protest, they could all sense the smell of gunpowder contained within.

Ning Fengzhi only sat smiling and silent to the side, apparently all this was unrelated to him.

Emperor Xue Ye basically didn't seem to notice platinum bishop Salas' ugly expression, and smiling said:

"Next is the ranking competition, also held by the Empire. But the location will change from Heaven Dou Great Spirit Arena to the imperial household hunting grounds. At that time, the ten teams from the five kingdoms and duchies will come to jointly conduct the ranking competition with you. I hope that your five academies will rank among the best, holding the best opportunity in the finals."

"The ranking competition is the best stage to show your own strength. When the time comes, for the three students that obtain the highest number of victories in the ranking competition, the Empire will furnish the spirit beast for your next title promotion. You can chose what type you want, and the Empire will guarantee a spirit beast under thirty thousand years cultivation."

Whether Shrek Academy or the four elemental academies, emperor Xue Ye's current pledge made their hearts beat even faster than the previous noble titles. Even Tang San couldn't help feeling his pulse quicken.

In fact, these ten academy team leaders all had fortieth ranked or so strength, their next title advancement would be at fiftieth ranked. Even though the fiftieth ranked spirit ring wasn't as important as the thirtieth, fiftieth rank was still the first level where a ten thousand year spirit ring could be obtained.

How strong the first ten thousand year spirit ring was would have enormous influence on all of their futures. If they could freely choose the spirit beast they required, it would no doubt hold enormous benefit, not only wouldn't they need to take risks or waste time, but they could also display their own spirit to the greatest degree.

From fiftieth rank and on, a Spirit Master's cultivation speed would drop substantially. Having a guarantee for their first ten thousand year spirit ring could undoubtedly let them keep a strong advantage from fiftieth to sixtieth rank. The benefits to their future growth would be boundless.

Seeing the gradually rising flames in the eyes of the ten elites, emperor Xue Ye smiled calmly,

"The ranking competition will be held in one month, I hope you can make even further breakthroughs in this month. Good. I won't say more. You are all intelligent children, I think you will make the most intelligent choices."

Finished speaking, emperor Xue Ye's gaze deviated a moment, sweeping across platinum bishop Salas' face. Then, under the protection of his imperial high officials, he turned and left.

Salas expression twitched slightly, but his expression had already completely calmed, nothing to be seen of the ugliness from before.

Just as emperor Xue Ye said, even though he didn't state it clearly, the academy team leaders all understood his meaning. The Empire and Spirit Hall, pick the first.

Tang San's heart twitched slightly. What emperor Xue Ye said today didn't seem to be something a monarch should say. Spirit Hall was so powerful, could it be emperor Xue Ye wanted to make a show of force?

In other words, had the conflict between Heaven Dou Empire and Spirit Hall already reached a condition that couldn't be reconciled?

It was better not to participate in these political matters. He didn't know about others, but his own road was already very clear cut, and could easily be summarised in one word: Freedom.

Tang San had set very clear-cut goals for himself, the limit of his spirit, the limit of Tang Sect.

Tang San and Dai Mubai walked out of Heaven Dou Great Spirit Arena together. The others waited for them outside. At this moment, an abrupt voice suddenly called out for Tang San.

"Tang San."

Tang San turned his head to look, only to see something red growing larger in his vision, recognizable to him as Huo Wu.

"What do you want?"

Tang San puzzled asked.

Huo Wu reached him in several steps, directly walking until she stood less than a meter from Tang San.

It had to be said that confronting Huo Wu held quite a bit of pressure. Because her height was quite outstanding among girls, right now she was even a bit taller than Tang San. In fact, along with absorbing the ten thousand year level Pit Demon Spider as his fourth spirit ring, Tang San's body was already more developed than his contemporaries. Right now his height was close to one meter eighty, and Huo Wu was precisely one meter eighty.

Huo Wu gazed at this, not particularly outstanding appearance, always seeming even tempered, Tang San,

"Have you got the courage to fight me without spirits?"

Tang San stared blankly a moment, the Shrek Academy group next to him all smiling. They were all very clear on Tang San's physical combat ability, and Tai Long had once raised this request to him, the result leaving his head and face in the dirt.

Shaking his head, Tang San said:

“I don’t have the spare time.”

“You.....”

The pupils of Huo Wu’s eyes suddenly contracted,

“Isn’t your close combat ability very strong?”

Brows wrinkling, Tang San fixed his eyes on Huo Wu. Looking at this just like a flame woman, he once again repeated:

“I’m sorry, I don’t have the spare time.”

Finished speaking, he turned and walked toward the Shrek Academy party, without wanting to get further involved with Huo Wu.

“You go to hell.”

Temper stretched to the limit, the fury Huo Wu had restrained for several days finally erupted. Her right leg snapped out, going straight for the back of Tang San’s head. With her height, her legs were long, and she moved like lightning.

Distinguishing sounds was the most basic capability at Tan Sect, how would Tang San let her easily do as she wished? Taking a quick step forward, half turning, left hand shooting out, he directly grabbed Huo Wu’s ankle.

Huo Wu only felt the momentum of her kick disappear like a clay ox entering the sea, instantly vanishing like smoke with a slight quiver of Tang San’s arm. Tang San’s hand gripped her leg like a vise, and no matter how she exerted herself, she was unable to withdraw it.

That left hand had already turned the color and luster of sheep fat jade.

Raising the right hand, pushing up Huo Wu’s long leg, taking a step towards Huo Wu, right foot naturally stepping behind Huo Wu’s supporting right leg, simultaneously bending forward, directly striking Huo Wu’s raised thigh.

Movements as natural as moving clouds and flowing water, smoothly

finding the weak point, left Huo Wu without any opportunity to react before she had already been sent flying by Tang San, falling into the embrace of the just arrived Huo Wushuang. Tang San didn't use much strength, amply displaying Controlling Crane Catching Dragon's method to use strength against itself.

"Let's go."

Tang San swept the Shrek Academy group who were all looking at Huo Wu getting pushed around with schadenfreude, then left with large strides.

"I'll kill him."

Huo Wu wanted to rush out again after being caught by her big brother, but was forcefully restrained by Huo Wushuang.

"Don't waste your breath, you aren't his match."

Sighing, Huo Wushuang firmly pulled back his little sister. He could of course see that Tang San had already started off leniently.

"Ge."

The rims of Huo Wu's eyes reddened. She really was somewhat unable to bear having her competitive nature once again being given a blow by the same person.

Notes

1. The five orders of nobility are from the most senior to least: Duke, Marquis, Count, Viscount, Baron.

107 – Truly Common Blue Silver Grass?

Part 1

Huo Wushuang sighed,

“Silly little sister, if you really want to beat him, then you have to cultivate ceaselessly, rely on your own strength to win. What use is there to senselessly make trouble like this? Work hard, we still have a chance in the ranking competition. To face an opponent that restrains us completely, we’ll have to think of some new methods. Even though he’s immune to fire, he can’t be immune to energy attacks, or did you forget what Shui Bing-Er did?”

“That’s right, that’s right, there’s still me. Little sister Huo Wu, I didn’t encounter him in the qualifiers, but once we’ve reached the ranking competition, I’ll definitely help you beat him.”

Feng Xiaotian had come over from somewhere without anyone noticing, speaking with a face full of righteous indignation.

Returning directly to the Academy from Heaven Dou Great Spirit Arena, Tang San’s mind was still constantly replaying the whole process of today’s confrontation with Skywater Academy.

To him, this wasn’t just a simple tie. This was the most difficult challenge in the whole qualifiers. It was admittedly because the opponents’ spirit fusion ability was especially familiar, but at the same time, this difficulty was also because they were restrained from the start.

Tang San clearly saw that it was because of him that the whole team had been at a disadvantage. Shui Bing-Er taking the control had destroyed his original plans. At the same time it had also finally let him experience the formidability of other control system Spirit

Masters. Next was the ranking competition, which was a stage for people to show off. But, after that came the finals, and that was still a team battle.

Any Spirit Master had flaws, and he was no exception. Only by a team complementing each other could a Spirit Master's strength be revealed to its greatest degree, this had always been a natural law of the Spirit Master world. That was also an important reason why this Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament relied mainly on team battles.

He didn't think much of emperor Xue Ye's olive branch, that wasn't a question he should consider yet. What he needed to think about right now was how he could help his team even more, how to let his own strength grow even more powerful.

Tang San had always been a stubborn person, it was true in his previous life at Tang Sect, and it was still true in this world.

Consequently, after returning to the Academy he immediately went to Grandmaster to propose he go into closed door cultivation for a time, in order to think about some things.

Grandmaster was understanding, and also understood that this was an important phase to Tang San. As long as he could pierce through this barrier in his heart, he would mature even more, and also become even more formidable. At this time there was nobody that could help him, the only one he could rely on was himself. Only his own understanding, comprehension, could he solve his own problems. Even a wise man like Grandmaster couldn't reply with anything that would have any better effect right now.

That wall within was different for each person, and nobody could know what problems others faced. Tang San's problems could only be settled by Tang San himself.

Watching Tang San's gradually disappearing back, the other six Shrek Seven Devils couldn't help feeling somewhat lonely. They also understood Tang San's current feelings. Ever since the formation of the team, even though today's match wasn't their most challenging, to Tang San it was still truly a suppressed battle. They could

completely understand Tang San's mood.

Xiao Wu wanted to catch up to and comfort Tang San, but was held back by Liu Erlong,

"Silly girl, don't go disturb him right now. It's better if he can understand on his own. Believe in him. Give him a little space."

Xiao Wu looked at Liu Erlong. Liu Erlong softly pulled her into her embrace, gently stroking her long braid.

Grandmaster coughed once, attracting everyone's attention,

"Well, Tang San has gone into seclusion. The next month is also a time for you to get into shape. This past month of high density matches has had different degrees of benefit for each of you. But this is still far from enough. I think you've all seen that you're not the only talents in this world. Tang San has met an opponent that restrains him, and you will also do the same. You're all as one, in order to help prevail and obtain the ultimate victory, you will have to pay even more. Therefore, I've decided that in the next month's recuperation interlude, I will once again conduct a period of strengthening training for you. What are those faces for? Stand up properly. If anyone has any objections, I don't mind doubling the training."

Blood curdling screams echoed simultaneously in the hearts of the Shrek Six Devils. Right now they suddenly envied Tang San. At least, in seclusion Tang San didn't need to undergo anymore hell training.....

The place Tang San chose for his seclusion was still that log cabin in the middle of the forest. The secluded surroundings, the quiet world, was most suitable for his cultivation.

When he'd already spent two days here, Tang San still sat vacantly. He didn't cultivate, his mind always enveloped in a dense fog. He couldn't find any way out of his problems, and he also didn't understand in what direction he should grow. He even doubted whether the control system route he'd walked until now wasn't a mistake.

In two days Tang San had thought a lot, but the more he thought, the more confused he became.

Two days and two nights had passed, he didn't even rest, not eating anything, completely passing the time in this kind of hazy condition. This kind of painful feeling wreaked havoc in his heart. He didn't even know why he was in pain.

Ever since the day he became a Spirit Master, he had always stood at the summit of his peers. Blue Silver Grass wasn't any formidable spirit, it was even a trash spirit, but cultivating under Grandmaster guidance, his strength had never been below those Spirit Masters of his age who possessed more formidable spirits. He was even ahead of everyone. As time had passed, Tang San had even already forgotten about the issues of his Blue Silver Grass, he'd always stood on equal footing with Spirit Masters with formidable spirits, he'd even felt somewhat superior.

However, now that he calmed down and thought it over, he discovered that if it wasn't for having the external spirit bone Eight Spider Lances, if it wasn't for always having the support of his comrades at his side and his luck in obtaining those spirit rings, perhaps, he wouldn't be much of anything.

Each of his spirit rings were of better quality than other peoples', but in his previous confrontation with Shui Bing-Er, it couldn't be said his spirit abilities held any advantage. Perhaps these kinds of circumstances should have appeared before, only in previous matches and fights, he had always used tactics to cover up this gap. But after Blue Silver Grass's own defects were revealed, Tang San immediately discovered his problem.

A truly formidable control system Spirit Master needed not only control, but also spirit abilities with a certain attack capability. Shui Bing-Er's spirit fusion ability was even better quality. However, could his Blue Silver Grass do that? No. Even if he already possessed a ten thousand year spirit ring at fortieth rank, without really using his external spirit bone he didn't have any advantage of Shui Bing-Er.

Rather than saying that his previous opponents had lost in strength, it would be better to say they had lost in tactics. Once an opponent

appeared who wasn't below him in planning, then the flaws of his control would immediately be exposed. This was still when he had taken the Octagonal Mysterious Ice Grass and Infernal Precious Apricot. If he didn't have these two immortal treasure herbs, perhaps his weakness would have been exposed even earlier, even Huo Wu could have easily beaten him.

'Why, why is it like this? Don't tell me all these years of effort have been a waste?' Tang San very clearly understood that the innate flaws of a spirit would gradually appear along with the growth of spirit power.

'No, it can't go on like this. Blue Silver Grass basically isn't a good spirit, I'm still young, there's still time to give it up.'

Tang San couldn't hold back the thoughts of his other spirit, Clear Sky Hammer. The hereditary spirit of one of the Spirit Master world's seven great schools, Clear Sky School. If he had chosen to cultivate the Clear Sky Hammer from the start, then his current strength wouldn't just be like this. He could only become more formidable.

The more he thought, the lower Tang San's confidence in Blue Silver Grass became. His heart was just like a raging sea, all kinds of chaotic thoughts making him feel somewhat crazy.

Two days had passed, without any cultivation. In the past this was something Tang San couldn't even have imagined, that was how diligent he was. However, right now he didn't have a trace of desire to cultivate.

"Little freak."

A green silhouette appeared in the yard outside, the sudden voice snapping Tang San out of his whirlpool of suffering.

Perhaps it was because these two days had consumed too much mental strength, but even though that voice sounded familiar, Tang San still couldn't make out who it belonged to.

Standing, Tang San walked out of the cabin. After sitting too long, as the glaring sunshine hit him, he couldn't keep from swaying a

moment.

“Little freak, what’s going on?”

In practically the next moment, the green silhouette was already in front of Tang San, one powerful hand directly clasping Tang San’s shoulder, mellow spirit power somewhat overbearing and somewhat coarsely penetrating his body, rousing Tang San’s mind somewhat. Then he clearly saw who it was.

Part 2

It wasn’t a stranger, but rather Shrek Academy’s honorary dean, one of the formidable Title Douluo, Dugu Bo.

Dugu Bo looked doubtfully at Tang San. Right now Tang San’s appearance was somewhat scary, his hair in a mess, his facial hair unkempt, both eyes bloodshot, a completely dispirited appearance.

“Old freak, you’re back.”

Managing to squeeze out a smile, the spirit power within Tang San’s body operated automatically, clearing his rigid blood vessels, letting him stand upright.

Dugu Bo doubtfully said:

“Little freak, what’s going on? Weren’t you still well when I left, how would you become like this in a few days? Come on, let’s go inside first.”

Dragging Tang San into the log cabin, Dugu Bo’s expression was somewhat serious. He could of course see how lacking Tan San’s mental state was right now. As a formidable Title Douluo, he was only too clear on the cultivation circumstances of Spirit Masters, and Tang San’s current condition was extremely dangerous. In case of a nervous breakdown, he would either go insane or be totally ruined.

“Little freak, tell me, what actually happened to strike you into this kind of appearance. In my memory, you little freak was always a freak among freaks. Don’t tell me you met someone even more

freakish than you?”

Looking at Dugu Bo, the rims of Tang San’s eyes suddenly reddened somewhat. Grandmaster absolutely hadn’t expected his current condition. After all, nobody knew Tang San was a person of two lives, his mind was far beyond his peers, but it was also because of this that it was even easier for him to get stuck bashing his head against a brick wall.

Dugu Bo’s appearance made Tang San recover somewhat. Especially his mind had a somewhat hopeful feeling.

“Old freak, can you tell me, if I cultivate my spirit power beyond the seventieth rank, will I still be as far ahead as I am now?”

Dugu Bo’s brows puckered,

“Why would you ask that? Little freak, what happened to your confidence? What’s actually gotten into you? You should understand how important confidence is to a Spirit Master, If you don’t have the most elementary confidence, if you don’t believe in yourself, then later you won’t make even a centimeter of progress.”

Tang San smiled wryly:

“But, I don’t know what I should do. The spirit I’m cultivating is just Blue Silver Grass. Even though I’ve already reached the fortieth rank, as my level increases, Blue Silver Grass’s weaknesses will be revealed more and more clearly. In the future, can I really rely on this spirit to contend with other Spirit Masters?”

A jade light flickered in Dugu Bo’s eyes, staring at Tang San with a burning gaze,

“Go on.”

Tang San said:

“The reason why I’m considered powerful among my peers right now isn’t because of the strength of my spirit, but rather because I have better spirit rings than ordinary Spirit Masters, and even have the external spirit bone Eight Spider Lances. You should also have seen

my second spirit before. I don't need to hide anything from you, my second spirit is Clear Sky School's Clear Sky Hammer. Right now I'm thinking that if I cultivated the Clear Sky Hammer instead, then wouldn't the circumstances be different? Right now I have fortieth level spirit power. I only need four spirit rings that suit me to be able to bring out the Clear Sky Hammer's strength. It's far more formidable than Blue Silver Grass. Even though I'm still not fifteen, I've already spent far too much effort on cultivating, I don't want to waste my later effort on a trash spirit like Blue Silver Grass. Does that make sense?"

Who was Dugu Bo? Anyone who could become a Title Douluo power was highly intelligent. From Tang San's simpler and agitated words, he had already gradually understood the problem Tang San faced right now.

Waving his hand, he didn't let Tang San speak further. Dugu Bo looked Tang San in the eyes, sternly saying:

"Little freak, do you know why I've always considered you a freak among freaks?"

Tang San stared blankly,

"Is it because of my knowledge in using poison?"

Dugu Bo shook his head, saying:

"That's only a small part. Even more significant is your Blue Silver Grass."

The pupils of Tang San's eyes contracted violently. Looking at Dugu Bo, his eyes revealed deep doubt.

Dugu Bo indifferently said:

"That's right, Blue Silver Grass is a trash spirit. Moreover it's the best known trash spirit. In the past, it was basically impossible for anyone who possessed Blue Silver Grass as spirit to have the chance to cultivate. But. You? Tell me. What were the circumstances when your spirit awakened? I heard Grandmaster say it was full innate spirit power, right?"

Tang San nodded.

“What does full innate spirit power signify? It signifies the foundation of the spirit. Even my own granddaughter who inherited by Jade Phosphor Serpent Spirit only had seventh ranked innate spirit power. And you had tenth ranked. And moreover, you still cultivate Blue Silver Grass. What does this signify? It means your Blue Silver Grass is different from the masses. That’s not simple Blue Silver Grass. You can also guess who your father is. Think, with your father’s background and strength, would he be together with a woman who only possessed common Blue Silver Grass? If it really was common Blue Silver Grass, how would it produce a little freak with twin spirits like you?”

Tang San was naturally deaf to Dugu Bo’s explanation of full innate spirit power, because he always believed that it was the result of his own diligently cultivated Mysterious Heaven Skill, and not bestowed by Blue Silver Grass. Even more, at the time he awakened he also had a Clear Sky Hammer, even if the spirit truly had assigned him some spirit power, that should also be from Clear Sky Hammer.

However, Dugu Bo’s later words made him somewhat startled. Yes, his Blue Silver Grass really was somewhat uncommon, especially not long ago when he had the feeling of being in contact with the natural wild blue silver grass. That throbbing came from his spirit itself. Just that no one had ever cultivated Blue Silver Grass to his present degree, Tang San also didn’t know whether this was something that Blue Silver Grass should be doing. But it was Dugu Bo’s last words that touched him the most. It was also an important question he’d always had.

His father was a directly related disciple of Clear Sky School, and also one of their greatest powers, would a woman who only possessed the a waste Blue Silver Grass Spirit be with him?

“Old freak, is there any relation between the strength of the parents’ spirits and twin spirits?”

Tang San’s breathing had clearly become hurried.

Dugu Bo grinned, saying:

“In this field, perhaps that teacher of yours doesn’t even know. Even though his spirit research is very thorough, you’re after all the first person he’s met who has twin spirits. Before, I once read some top secret information in Spirit Hall. It was a written account of twin spirits. Spirits are hereditary, generally coming from the parents, so tell me, what’s the relation between inheriting the parents’ spirits.”

Having followed Grandmaster for so many years, this kind of question naturally wasn’t difficult for Tang San, and he answered without the slightest hesitation:

“Generally speaking, the spirit inherited is the relatively more powerful one of the parents’ spirits.”

Dugu Bo went on:

“Then when there’s hardly any difference in strength between the spirits, or even when they’re identical, what will happen?”

Tang San said:

“Under such circumstances, it will be inherited randomly, but under such circumstances there’s also a higher chance of spirit variation.”

Dugu Bo nodded, saying:

“Worthy of being Grandmaster’s disciple, your explanation is quite right. But, do you know, what are the odds of twin spirits appearing under such circumstances? The reason twin spirits are so rare, is because the conditions are so harsh. This is what’s written in Spirit Hall’s records. The birth of twin spirits mainly has two preconditions, first, the parents’ spirits can’t be identical, the more they differ, the higher the odds of bringing about twin spirits. At the same time, the closer the quality of both sides’ spirits, the higher the odds of bringing about twin spirits. In other words, if there’s a gap in quality between the spirits, it’s basically impossible to birth a child with twin spirits. Even if these conditions are met, the probability of issue with twin spirits is only one in a thousand, or even one in ten thousand. Understand?”

Tang San was clever, even though his mental state wasn’t very good right now, he still very quickly caught on to what Dugu Bo meant.

Dugu Bo was using this example to tell him his Blue Silver Grass Spirit absolutely wasn't simple. Capable of possessing qualitative parity with Clear Sky Hammer, what kind of Blue Silver Grass was that?

According to Grandmaster's research, twin spirits was a kind of spirit variation, only the circumstances in which it arose were really too rare, and therefore so very few had appeared on the Continent. Dugu Bo's analysis wasn't bad, and Tang San immediately recalled the other two cases of twin spirits Grandmaster had talked about. Sure enough, the quality of the twin spirits really was extremely similar.

The originally vacant heart once again became burning hot. Tang San's eyes finally began to focus again.

Dugu Bo unhappily glared at him, saying:

"Even if your Blue Silver Grass's quality wasn't good, do you think that really matters? How old are you this year? Still not even fifteen, but already fortieth rank. Your present worries are matters for later. Since you could obtain formidable spirit rings and spirit bones to pull open the distance with equally ranked Spirit Masters before, don't tell me you couldn't do it again? No effort is wasted. If you don't have even this much confidence, then you're not freakish, but rubbish."

Part 3

"Correct, if you cultivated Clear Sky Hammer now, your strength would indeed start rising again in a short time. As long as you have suitable spirit rings, you will immediately become powerful, even more powerful than fifty or sixtieth ranked Spirit Masters. But, haven't you considered, if you began cultivating Clear Sky Hammer at ninetieth rank, getting nine spirit rings, what quality would they be? At that time, even if getting nine hundred thousand year spirit rings at the same time wouldn't be impossible. Even if Blue Silver Grass was no good, it would still be enough to push you to that level, it wouldn't be too late to prepare at that time. With your present cultivation

speed, perhaps you will break your father's record of becoming the youngest Title Douluo. What's the rush?"

Dugu Bo clearly didn't know about the deadline of twin spirits, but his arguments were clear and easy to see.

'Yes, I could obtain external strength before, why couldn't I do it later? When others have ten thousand year spirit rings, I have a twenty thousand year spirit ring, when others have fifty thousand year spirit rings, I'll get a hundred thousand year. Relying on the effect of spirit rings can also pull closer the gap between me and the quality of others' spirits. What's more, right now I still have a spirit bone to trade. Aren't these also my own advantages?'

The disorder in his mind gradually left, and the fog in his heart quietly dissipated. Right now, the only question that still remained was how to make himself stronger.

Dugu Bo looked at Tang San's changing expression and knew this little freak had already figured out a lot from his pointer. Leaning back in his chair, he smiled:

"Little freak, do you know where I went this time?"

Tang San snapped:

"How could I know what an old freak like you is up to?"

Along with his mood recovering, he clearly became a lot more relaxed.

Dugu Bo grinned, saying:

"I went to exchange pointers with an old friend."

"Eh? Win or lose?"

Tang San asked.

The green light in Dugu Bo's eyes became agitated,

"I didn't win, and I didn't lose, it was at least a draw. Haha."

Tang San mocked:

“Only a draw, what’s there to be proud about.”

Dugu Bo curled his lip, saying:

“You know farts. Every time I fought that fellow before I would be beaten into the dirt, battered and exhausted, if I didn’t rely on poison, I would be dead long ago. But this time he was the dirty one, were it not for this old man being compassionate and merciful, perhaps I’d have killed him.”

Tang San started, if Dugu Bo said this, then his opponent was definitely a Title Douluo. Otherwise, how could Dugu Bo be beaten ragged?

“Your strength progressed?”

Dugu Bo said with immense pride:

“That’s not it. This fellow’s spirit power has reached ninety sixth rank, considered an expert among Title Douluo, with even more astonishing power behind him. This time he almost fell, you tell me how I couldn’t be excited. Of course, this was also thanks to you.”

“Me? How is it related to me? That was a ninety sixth ranked Title Douluo, I’m forty something ranked.”

Dugu Bo grinned:

“Still remember those Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls you gave me? Really can’t know without using, but they scared me out of my skin. This time it should have been me who lost. At that time, I was already forced back and prepared to run, but I suddenly remembered that nice thing you gave me. So I pulled it out and used it. I didn’t expect that thing to really be so scarily powerful. That idiot ate at least seven or eight poison darts, and all of a sudden it let me turn the tables. In the end he had no choice but to take to his heels and run. Hahahaha.”

Thinking back at the happy sight, Dugu Bo couldn’t help laughing.

Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls? Tang San hadn’t used them since he made these hidden weapons. Suddenly, a great flash of

divine light lit up his mind, his brain suddenly becoming sharp. 'Hidden weapons. Hidden weapons, I'm from Tang Sect, I have hidden weapons.'

'That's right, Blue Silver Grass might not be a formidable spirit, but just like Teacher said, its plasticity is still extraordinarily formidable. If, if I can combine my Blue Silver Grass with the hidden weapons I inherited from Tang Sect, then, what will the result be?'

His heart suddenly throbbed breathlessly. Tang San swallowed a big gulp of saliva. His mind was already impatiently reflecting on how he should combine Blue Silver Grass with the mysteries of his hidden weapon secret lore.

Dugu Bo saw Tang San suddenly tremble after hearing about him using the Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls. He immediately became lifeless, and also couldn't help start.

"Little freak, what is it?"

"Ah? It's nothing. Old freak, thank you for enlightening me, I've already figured it out."

Dugu Bo assumed the appearance of a capable person,

"Me saving you can't be free of charge. I already used up those Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls. Don't you still have some? Give me another two. I can trade for something. Or pay."

Tang San stared at Dugu Bo,

"Trade farts, take them."

Four dark green spheres flew straight at Dugu Bo.

Dugu Bo was so scared he jumped, flustered catching the four Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls, grumbling:

"Stinking brat, are you after my old life! What if they exploded? Are you after my old life!"

Tang San smiled:

"If I didn't have even this much confidence, how could I even make

them. Moreover, with my spirit power, even if they really exploded, could they injure an old freak like you?”

Dugu Bo cautiously loaded the four Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls into a spirit tool, satisfied saying:

“These things of yours, not only is the attack range great, but the penetrating power is great. Especially after colliding. The more violently they collide, the more spirit power I use, the greater the piercing power. It’s a pity they’re not poisonous enough. Otherwise, they would be even scarier.”

Tang San reminded Dugu Bo:

“Old freak, don’t depend on them too much. Even though the Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls have great power, as hidden weapons, what’s most important is surprise. When confronting an opponent on the same level, if you lose the element of surprise, their effect won’t be so good. As for the poison, originally when I made them I didn’t have suitable drugs on hand, and even though I’ve gained some later, it’s very difficult to reinforce the poison after they’ve already been formed.”

Dugu Bo grinned, saying:

“That’s no good. Make some more.”

Tang San smiled wryly:

“You think they’re candy? It’s easier said than done. It requires a great amount of time. Right now I’m participating in the Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament, spare time must all be used for cultivating, how could I make them. Let’s talk about it once the tournament is over.”

Dugu Bo nodded, saying:

“I heard you already passed the qualifiers. Next should be the ranking competition. With a little freak like you overseeing it, you should be able to get a good place, perhaps you’ll even enter the top three.”

Tang San smiled:

“Why not champions? Don’t you have that much confidence in me?”

Dugu Bo shrugged, saying:

“That’s not a question of confidence. In front of absolute strength, what use is confidence? If you can enter the top three, that’s already a good achievement. There was never any doubt about who would win this tournament.”

Hearing Dugu Bo say this, Tang San couldn’t keep his heart from twitching,

“Eh? Since you say as much, do you know some team that’s especially strong?”

Dugu Bo sighed, saying:

“How is Spirit Hall so powerful? It’s because they recruit so many Spirit Master experts. Apart from the seven great schools, practically all formidable Spirit Masters belong to Spirit Hall. No one can possess more information about Spirit Masters and factors for cultivation than Spirit Hall. Under Spirit Hall’s careful fostering, a group of elite Spirit Masters will emerge with each generation. This time is no different. I’ve heard that Spirit Hall has a few little juniors with astonishing talent, even the Supreme Pontiff praises them as Spirit Hall’s Golden Generation, the masters of the future. And it’s precisely them that are representing Spirit Hall in this year’s Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament. They’re all barely more than twenty, and there’s no need to doubt their strength. Spirit Hall provided them with cultivation resources and outfitting in all areas, how could common advanced Spirit Master academies compare. Even you couldn’t do it. You’re after all still too young, perhaps you can catch up to them in another ten years.”

Dugu Bo was a Title Douluo, naturally he wouldn’t talk without thinking. Hearing him say this, Tang San’s mood immediately turned serious.

“Since you say this, Spirit Hall is determined to win this tournament?”

Dugu Bo nodded, saying:

“Don’t you know what the prize is for the final champions in this Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament?”

Tang San blankly shook his head.

Dugu Bo snorted coldly,

“Originally Spirit Hall was preparing to give those things directly to those geniuses of the Golden Generation, but were opposed by the elders of Elder Palace. As a result, the Supreme Pontiff compromised and decided to give them some training, and that’s this tournament. And Spirit Hall took out those things that were originally going to them as rewards for the champions. Tell me, how couldn’t they be determined to win?”

“What are those things?”

Tang San curiously asked.

Dugu Bo retorted:

“To Spirit Masters, what’s most precious?”

Tang San’s heart twitched,

“Don’t tell me it’s a spirit bone?”

Dugu Bo shook his head,

“No, not one, but three.”

“What?”

Tang San turned pale with fright. Three spirit bones? What kind of concept was that? Something like spirit bones was a divine existence to Spirit Masters. Any one spirit bone could give a Spirit Master an enormous boost. Three spirit bones, that wasn’t something that could be weighed with money.

Dugu Bo said:

“These three spirit bones were set aside by Spirit Hall, left behind by

their passed away elders. Since the Supreme Pontiff dares take them out as reward for the champions, you can imagine their confidence in their athletes. Do you still have thoughts of being lucky?"

"Of course."

Tang San said without the slightest hesitation,

"Since they've taken them out, there's no need for them to take them back again. Old freak, do you know the levels of Spirit Hall's athletes in the tournament, and what their spirits are?"

108 – Flash Of Understanding

Part 1

Dugu Bo couldn't help staring blankly as he saw the suddenly blossoming radiance in Tang San's eyes,

"Little freak, don't be feverish. Didn't you understand what I just said? Those spirit bones aren't for you to dream of."

Tang San didn't speak, what is called 'take what you hear to be false, only believe it when you see it'. Raising his right hand, faint blue light bubbled out of his palm, and under his precise control, only one tiny Blue Silver Grass stretched its way out. That was just one blade of grass, seemingly no different than wild blue silver grass. The appearance of the spirit, naturally also meant the spirit rings appeared.

Yellow, yellow, purple, black. Four spirit rings hovered quietly. The yellow rings of light were bright and spirited, the purple spirit ring noble and threatening, but that black spirit ring was just like a bottomless abyss, brimming with terrifying charm.

"You....."

Dugu Bo shot to his feet, his gaze going through myriad changes in an instant as he looked at Tang San, a strict imposing manner abruptly burst out of him, pressing in on Tang San from all directions.

Under the effect of the external pressure, Tang San's four spirit rings brightened. Only the Blue Silver Grass in his palm still swayed softly.

"No, this is impossible."

Dugu Bo rubbed his eyes hard, shaking his head again, carefully staring at that black spirit ring over Tang San.

Tang San smiled slightly, saying:

“Did you forget? Turning the impossible into possible is what I’m best at. Do you think I can match Spirit Hall’s people now?”

Dugu Bo drew a deep breath, slowly suppressing his shock, saying something Tang San hadn’t expected,

“Give up on this tournament. With your age, you can still participate next time. At that time, there shouldn’t be anybody who could oppose your team.”

“Why?”

Tang San stared wide-eyed.

Dugu Bo lowered his voice:

“If your strength was still like before, or perhaps if your fourth spirit ring was only on the thousand year level, then I wouldn’t be worried. But this is different. Your fourth spirit ring reaching the ten thousand year level will bring you endless troubles. Do you think Spirit Hall wouldn’t take note of you? If you were Spirit Hall and encountered a genius like this, what would you do? There are only two options. Subdue or destroy. If my guess is correct, then right now your information is at least laid out on a platinum bishop’s desk. Spirit Hall wouldn’t try to act behind your back, they would completely exploit this tournament, arranging for you to have an ‘accident’ on stage in a just and honorable match. To Spirit Hall, the rules of the tournament is only a game to toy with.”

Tang San smiled wryly:

“So you’re saying you still aren’t optimistic about me?”

Dugu Bo looked deeply at him,

“There are three people in Spirit Hall’s so-called Golden Generation. I don’t know their specifics, and I also don’t know what their spirits and spirit abilities are. But I can tell you one thing: among these three, the one with the lowest spirit power is fifty first rank, and the other two are fifty second rank. They’re all only twenty three or twenty four years old. As they broke through the fiftieth rank and obtained their fifth spirit rings, the Supreme Pontiff personally

awarded them Spirit Hall's Purple Record Medal, and they also set Spirit hall's record. And of the others forming their team this time, nobody has less than forty fifth ranked spirit power. This is all I know."

Even though Tang San had always known Spirit Hall was formidable, it was only now that he understood just how frightening.

Fiftieth rank, even three at fiftieth rank..... And the rest were all over forty fifth rank. What did this signify?

Even though Tang San had absolute confidence in himself, now he saw a chasm that really was difficult to bridge. The lowest members on the other side were higher ranked than his side's highest ranked. Could they really prevail over opponents like these?

Seeing Tang San's alarmed expression, Dugu Bo sighed, saying:

"At your age, your current level is even more frightening than theirs, let alone when you still have the external spirit bone. Don't think too much about it, there will be chances. As long as you don't waste time, there will be a day when you surpass them."

Tang San suddenly smiled. Perhaps it was because of Dugu Bo's pointer undoing his issues, but right now his mind was incomparably incisive.

"Old freak. Didn't you say it just now? As a Spirit Master, confidence is vital. If I really avoided a confrontation now, the blow to my confidence would be unimaginable. So what if we lose? Even if we can't defeat them, don't tell me we can't defend ourselves? Only all out battle can show the gap between both sides. I won't give up."

Looking at Tang San, something unconsciously crept into Dugu Bo's eyes,

"Forget about it, I don't care about you. Just do as you wish. I'll leave first. After returning from so far away, I still haven't had a meal. I'll go scavenge."

Finished speaking, jade light flashed, and Dugu Bo's lofty silhouette was already gone.

A warm feeling spread. Dugu Bo had just returned but came to see him first, that wasn't for the sake of those Cluster Soul Chasing Life Taking Balls, but out of concern for him. By now there was nothing left of the initial intense vigilance.

Even though their ages differed by multiples, Tang San still sensed a feeling similar to Grandmaster from Dugu Bo, even so much that there was something of camaraderie, spanning the difference in years.

With Dugu Bo gone, the first thing Tang San did wasn't to cultivate, nor was it to reflect, but to sleep.

Two days and two nights without rest had long ago already overtaxed his mind. Without sufficient rest, how could he start to test his vision? Therefore, he didn't hesitate to choose to rest, and moreover very quickly entered dreamland.

.....

The dazzling platinum bishop's office, an expansive room with an area surpassing two hundred square meters, arranged with all kinds of precious toys.

Salas sat behind a massive, somewhat exaggeratedly gorgeous desk. In front of him was a file, a file transferred from Nuoding City.

It had to be said that Spirit Hall was incredibly efficient. In just a month they had found this kind of needle in a haystack document by searching the records the Spirit Halls in each town.

It was already the seventh time Salas had read this document, but in his heart he still didn't dare believe what he was looking at was real.

The documents in front of him was a Spirit Master profile, for a Spirit Master named: Tang San.

The profile was very detailed. From the first time Tang San registered at Spirit Hall, confirming his status as Spirit Master, to each time he drew the Spirit Master stipend and each title upgrade after obtaining a spirit ring. All the details were there.

What kind of spirit rings he obtained, what rank spirit power, this wasn't what had made Salas read it seven times. The reason why he repeatedly looked it over was actually only one number, a number representing age.

Fourteen, only fourteen years old. Still several months away from fifteen. Spirit Ancestor over fortieth rank. Spirit Ancestor at fourteen. Still with a fourth spirit ring at the ten thousand year level.

Clapping a hand to his forehead, Salas really didn't want to believe it was true.

Standing, Salas walked over to a bookcase behind the desk, raising a hand to pull out a thick book. With a burst of mechanical sounds, the bookcase slowly moved to the side, exposing the wall.

On the wall was a square metal plate, emitting faint spirit power fluctuations. Clearly, this metal plate was a spirit tool. Pressing his right hand to it, immediately, a layer of faint red light emitted from the metal plate, instantly covering Salas' palm.

With another burst of mechanical sounds, the square plate fell inwards, exposing a square space. The space wasn't large, only one square chi^[1], with a pile of documents inside.

Salas simply rummaged through and pulled out a file marked with the words 'Top Secret'.

There were only three sheets of paper inside the file, with three profiles. Salas quickly looked them over, and very soon found what he was looking for.

"Fifteen, sixteen, sixteen, the youngest of those three was still fifteen when reaching fortieth rank spirit power."

Abruptly closing the file, Salas quickly closed the hidden space with a peng sound. Returning to his desk with big strides, he once again picked up Tang San's data, looking at that number for the eighth time.

"Still one year earlier than the Golden Generation. Blue Silver Grass, trash spirit? Truly interesting. It's fortunate he only has Blue Silver

Grass. But this Tang San's spirit power growth rate is a bit too fast. Full innate spirit power Blue Silver Grass. It seems it should be a variation."

Salas clearly hadn't been influenced by emperor Xue Ye's unyielding attitude earlier today. Picking up a pen, he very quickly wrote a letter. On the envelope was written 'Top secret, for the Supreme Pontiff'.

.....

Nightfall, a slender silhouette quietly entered the forest behind Shrek Academy, quickly moving along a familiar path, carrying a wooden case.

Her pace was very fast, each time her legs hit the ground she would be propelled at least five meters. In just a moment, she had already reached the log cabin in the woods.

Body shooting up, quietly crossing the fence, in just two leaps she stood in front of the log cabin's door.

Quietly moving into the log cabin, before she had time to even move, a strand of durable Blue Silver Grass had already quietly twisted around her long legs. A cold voice echoed from within the darkness,

"Who?"

"Ge, it's me."

Along with the sweet voice rising, Blue Silver Grass quietly withdrew, and Tang San lit an oil lamp in the cabin.

Part 2

The arrival was Xiao Wu. She placed the lunch box she carried on the table and looked somewhat worriedly at Tang San, but didn't ask anything.

Even though nobody else knew Tang San's condition in these two days, she had brought food to him every day, and the corners of her

eyes revealed her concern.

After asking Grandmaster several times, Grandmaster had only told her that Tang San would have to sort out his problems on his own.

Even Grandmaster hadn't expected Tang San to be in even more danger than he had expected.

Under the lamplight, Xiao Wu's charming countenance seemed even more beautiful, a pair of black big eyes, long scorpion braid, and still those somewhat exaggeratedly long legs. Even though she only wore the simple school uniform, the air around her was still pervaded with a fresh and clean air.

"Ge, eat something first."

Xiao Wu opened the lunch box, taking out the dishes inside one by one, four dishes and one soup, as well as several steamed buns. Extremely sumptuous, and right now still piping hot.

This was also an important reason why Xiao Wu had rushed over, she was afraid the food would go cold.

Rubbing Xiao Wu's head, Tang San pulled out a chair and, without any trace of politeness, quickly ate in big bites. He had gone two days without tasting what he ate, and now that his issues had been resolved, his appetite naturally returned. He swept clean the dishes in front of him like wind scattering clouds.

Watching Tang San eating heartily, Xiao Wu first looked distracted a moment, then very quickly had a somewhat smiling expression. The two had been together for so many years, how couldn't she spot the changes in Tang San's mood? Seeing that Tang San had already passed the danger zone, Xiao Wu's taut heartstrings relaxed automatically.

"Ge, I'll tell you something good. My spirit power is already thirty ninth rank."

Tang San somewhat astonished raised his head. While chewing a mouthful of food, he said with delighted surprise:

“So quickly, then perhaps by the finals you’ll also have broken through to the fortieth rank. Even if you haven’t, just breaking through one rank of spirit power will boost strength somewhat.”

Xiao Wu smiled and shook her head, saying:

“Fortieth rank might be impossible in time for this tournament. That’s after all a bottleneck to break through. But it shouldn’t be too far away. I’ll try as hard as I can, so you have to try hard too! That match couldn’t be blamed on you. After all, our cooperation with Tai Long and the others really was a bit lacking. Once we reach the finals, our Shrek Seven Devils can go up together. The result will definitely be different then. All of us will support you. Everyone’s been together for so long, experienced so much, the final champions will definitely be us.”

In a short while of work, Tang San had swept the plates clean. When he smiling looked at Xiao Wu quietly clear the bowls and chopsticks, for some reason he unexpectedly didn’t feel like thinking about cultivating.

“Ge, we haven’t exchanged pointers in quite a while. You rest a bit first, then how about we compare notes later? No spirit abilities and hidden weapons.”

Seeing Xiao Wu’s as if smiling without smiling appearance, Tang San said:

“Aren’t you looking to bully me? Truly well said. Only, even without spirit abilities, right now you still might not beat me.”

If it was without using spirit abilities and hidden weapons, before when Tang San and Xiao Wu exchanged pointers he would frequently be beaten by her. Her flawless Soft Skill really was too overbearing.

If caught, let alone equal level, even opponents one level higher than her wouldn’t stand a chance. In terms of physical fighting capability, among the Shrek Seven Devils, Xiao Wu absolutely wasn’t inferior to Tang San, even above Dai Mubai.

Xiao Wu pouted, saying:

“No way. My Soft Skill has improved again recently. We haven’t had this kind of physical fight in more than half a year?”

Tang San nodded, saying:

“More or less. In this half year everyone’s been constantly drilling tactics.”

The advantages of Xiao Wu’s Soft Skill were clear, and the flaws were equally clear.

That was the need to get close, and when confronting some formidable Spirit Masters, once spirit abilities were released, getting close would be extremely difficult. Even when teleporting.

Like against Huo Wu’s Defying Flame Ring that could push away the opponent at any time, Xiao Wu’s Soft Skill would naturally be unable to show effect.

Tang San and Xiao Wu had also once carefully researched this bit, but so far they hadn’t found a perfect solution. Even though they could resolve it by cooperating, Xiao Wu’s lone combat capability still couldn’t effectively improve.

“Come, we’ll try it now. Let me see to what degree your close combat ability has reached.”

Tang San smiling said to Xiao Wu. He wasn’t an ordinary person, and even though he had just eaten a lot, it still wouldn’t influence a bit of exercise.

The two went outside, facing each other under light of the the seemingly smiling moon.

“Ge, then I’ll start.”

“Come.”

Tang San smiling crooked a finger at Xiao Wu.

Everyone’s strength had improved, and Tang San’s Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track had gradually reached a degree of perfection along with the progress of his Mysterious Heaven Skill. Even though Xiao

Wu's close combat ability was very strong, as long as he didn't let her get close enough to use force, what was the use of even more power? Therefore, Tang San basically didn't believe he could lose.

Xiao Wu moved. She really was very fast, before he even saw her legs bend, she had already appeared in front of Tang San in a flash. The long scorpion braid behind her whipped out, covering a large area, and she simultaneously stretched out her hands, hugging towards Tang San's neck.

Tang San swiftly took three steps, his body flickering successively as if illusory, his upper body simultaneously bending backwards, extremely ingeniously breaking out of Xiao Wu's attack range. He didn't attack, but swiftly retreated using Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track.

Xiao Wu naturally wouldn't leave it at that. Upper body suddenly leaning over, her pace swiftly accelerating, and with a slight swaying of her upper body, Tang San only felt something blossom before his eyes. In that instant, Xiao Wu's body seemed to become illusory, as if three of her appeared simultaneously.

If he wasn't exceedingly familiar with Xiao Wu's spirit abilities, Tang San would have believed she had used her abilities. But reason told him that it wasn't any kind of spirit ability. The reason why three silhouettes suddenly appeared was her speed.

At the same time as the three silhouettes emerged, Xiao Wu's speed had reached a terrifying degree. Even though it couldn't compare to teleport, she had pulled close the distance to Tang San in just a split second, three silhouettes, two empty and one real, surrounded Tang San all at once.

The scorpion braid whipped out once again.

"So fast!"

Tang San gasped in admiration, but his feet didn't pause. If Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track could be broken so easily, then it wouldn't be Tan Sect's secret lore. As a support skill for hidden weapons, lightness skill had always been extremely important at Tang Sect.

Seeing Tang San's body also becoming illusory, truly like a shadow flickering several times, he was obviously escaping to the left, but in fact his body had already moved to the right. Xiao Wu, determined to win, still only pounced at empty air.

Pausing, Xiao Wu fuming looked at Tang San,

"What are you doing running away so quickly, I'm not going to eat you."

Tang San grinned, saying:

"What's wrong in running when I can't win? If you have the skill, catch me."

Xiao Wu snorted,

"Then I'll use my true strength."

While speaking, her right hand pulled at her scorpion braid.

"I'm looking forward to it."

Tang San teased her.

"Come."

Xiao Wu's one hand held her braid, upper body swaying once again, she charged directly at Tang San. Just when Tang San prepared the same old trick, once again using Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track to dodge, Xiao Wu suddenly moved.

The scorpion braid flung out, suddenly coming undone. The originally long braid suddenly became like a black cloud that enveloped Tang San completely. Even though Tang San was fast, all this was really too sudden. He only saw his vision go black, and he subconsciously retreated.

The scorpion braid itself could be called Xiao Wu's tool to extend her attack distance. When it was a braid, it was more than one meter sixty long, but now that it suddenly opened, the braid's length abruptly shot up to two meters and change, making Tang San misjudge the distance. Even more importantly, the braid was

originally like a whip, and its attack range was after all limited.

But now that the hair dispersed, not only did the area it covered turn from a string to a surface, at the same time it also instantly covered Tang San's field of vision.

Xiao Wu was even faster than Tang San imagined. If Tang San could see the expression in Xiao Wu's eyes right now, he would definitely see a crafty glint within. In that attack before, she basically hadn't used her speed to its full limit. But now, if Zhu Zhuqing was here, she would definitely discover that Xiao Wu's speed unexpectedly wasn't inferior to hers, at most Xiao Wu was only a bit less agile than her.

The braid suddenly separated into five parts, separately binding Tang San's neck, arms and legs. Tang San's Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track also only let him dodge the two parts below, his arms and neck tightening simultaneously.

Tang San secretly cursed, both arms immediately turning in reverse to grab and remove Xiao Wu's braid. Simultaneously he immediately leapt up, just managing to get away from Xiao Wu's twisting long legs.

Grabbing Xiao Wu's hair, Tang San suddenly had a strange feeling. That hair had a faint delicate fragrance, supple where he grabbed, slipping out of his hands, and basically couldn't be grabbed firmly. Moreover, the hair had an indistinct tenacity, agile as if it was alive.

Suddenly, the hair wound around Tang San's neck and arms released, slipping through the cracks between his fingers. No matter how much strength Tang San used, he was still unable to hold back the smooth black hair.

Xiao Wu's lovable laughter also echoed at this time,

"Ge, this time I want to see how you'll still run."

Part 3

Right now Tang San had also realized he was in a bad position. In order to avoid Xiao Wu's long legs, he had already leapt into the air,

planning to rely on the hair he had grabbed to change direction. But the hair suddenly slipped through his fingers left him without anything to pull, and he soared straight up into the air.

No matter how miraculous Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track, it still needed some place to exert strength. Where could Tang San exert any strength now?

Xiao Wu's leg lock maneuver was a feint, and at the same time as she withdrew her hair, she already crouched slightly, and in the next moment shot up, chasing after Tang San in midair.

Delicate little hands once again wound around Tang San's neck, and helplessly, Tang San could only pour strength into his arms to block. But were Xiao Wu's hands so easy to resist? Hands with arms so soft as to being boneless stretched along Tang San's arms, smoothly winding around his neck, her entire body already pasted to him.

Tang San only felt something tighten around his waist as Xiao Wu's powerful long legs wrapped around him. Whether arms or legs, Xiao Wu gave him a feeling of extreme pliability and toughness, even a bit more durable than his Blue Silver Grass. Most terrifying was that Xiao Wu's toughness was as slippery as her long hair. The strength Tang San used dissipated immediately with a slight sway of Xiao Wu's body.

If it was described using Tang San's martial skill in his last life, then the skill Xiao Wu used right now was the most powerful four liang pushing a thousand jin^[2]. No matter how you used strength, you would be unable to throw her off. Even Tang San's arms were completely locked up by Xiao Wu's arms around his neck, and he couldn't attack even if he wanted to.

If he was facing an enemy right now, all Tang San could have done was a headbutt. But how could he want to do that to Xiao Wu, what could be done if Xiao Wu was by some chance injured? What's more, if Xiao Wu really was an enemy, then Waist Bow would have already launched the instant she caught his neck, without giving him any chance to resist.

But Xiao Wu didn't use Waist Bow. The long hair fluttering behind her

back, arms tightly wound around Tang San's neck, the two fell from the sky, face to face.

Until they stood firmly on the ground, Tang San still couldn't believe this was real. Looking at Xiao Wu almost within reach, exhaling fragrantly, he couldn't help being speechless.

Tang San was certain he absolutely hadn't been careless. He knew Xiao Wu's close combat ability, and he had used Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track from the start. But finally it had still ended like this. The key was Xiao Wu's long hair and the changes in her body.

Xiao Wu's close combat had clearly become even more powerful, but this didn't seem to be something given her by spirit rings. Tang San was very curious as to what she had actually done.

"I've won."

Xiao Wu giggling looked at Tang San. Her legs twisted around his waist didn't let go, the two touching so closely they could smell each others' breath.

Right now looking at Xiao Wu at such close range, Tang San's gaze froze somewhat. A ball of flame ignited deep in his heart, and his breathing clearly became more ragged.

Xiao Wu very quickly discovered the changes in Tang San, and the smile on her face gradually faded. Staring at him equally fixedly, slowly moving the arms twisted around his, releasing Tang San's arms, but both her hands still embracing his neck, her small butt right now stuck to Tang San's abdomen. Her breathing also started to become equally rough, and she could even hear her own heart beat faster.

Tang San's hands subconsciously embraced Xiao Wu's slender waist, pulling her closer. Xiao Wu's arms also used strength at the same time. A trace of confusion spread through their hearts simultaneously.

"Xia——"

The call of a nocturnal bird suddenly smashed the tranquility, clearing

Tang San's mind, and he hastily curbed his state of mind.

'She's my little sister, what am I doing?'

Subconsciously releasing the hands pulling Xiao Wu's waist closer, Tang San somewhat panicked grabbed Xiao Wu's shoulders, tilting his head,

"Xiao Wu. How did you do it? Your close combat capability seems to-, seems to have grown a lot stronger."

All Tang San could do at this moment was to change the subject, only like that could he somewhat ease the embarrassment he felt.

"En....."

Sensing Tang San's mood cooling, Xiao Wu also gradually calmed. But she still wasn't willing to separate from the contact with Tang San at this point. Even though her legs slipped from Tang San's waist, she still embraced Tang San's neck, her body leaning against his, her head resting on Tang San's shoulder, her face naturally displaying a faint smiling expression.

Tang San wanted to push away Xiao Wu, but also couldn't bear it. Xiao Wu spoke up,

"Ge, do you know why my close combat ability grew so much stronger?"

Tang San blankly shook his head. Even though he was intelligent, right now he had somewhat lost the ability to think.

Xiao Wu said:

"I know the flaws of my own abilities, but not long ago I also understood the 'soft' in Soft Skill. Spirit abilities might not necessarily come from spirit rings. True powers also have a lot of capabilities not inferior to spirit abilities. Just like your Purple Demon Eye mental attack, right? We all have a lot of potential ourselves, and developing one is a kind of spirit ability. A spirit ability created by oneself will have an even deeper understanding than one brought by a spirit ring, and they're also even more practical."

Listening to Xiao Wu, Tang San couldn't help looking distracted a moment. He forgot about pushing away Xiao Wu, immediately sinking into deep thought. Xiao Wu's words could be described as having opened another door for him. If Dugu Bo's pointer before could be described as having created the thought of a prototype for his future abilities, then Xiao Wu's words erased the vagueness before his eyes, making everything become clear.

Xiao Wu leaned against Tang San's shoulder,

"Also, when we use spirit abilities we can also be more meticulous, coordinating our own spirit abilities, and coordinating with our companions' spirit abilities. Even if it isn't a spirit fusion ability, the effect should still be even more powerful than adding one plus one to make two."

Tang San astonished said:

"When did your insight become so penetrating, this is also what I've wanted to tell everyone. The coordination of our spirit abilities can still improve, especially the coordination of our own spirit abilities. Like your three spirit abilities right now, I think the best way of coordinating them is Demon Confusion, Teleport, Waist Bow. Using Demon Confusion to deadlock the opponent, teleport to instantly get close, then erupting with the strength of Waist Bow. That way it can doubtless show its greatest fighting strength. As long as the opponent is a little bit careless, they won't have the power to resist further."

Release the hands encircling Tang San, Xiao Wu took the initiative to separate from his wide chest, smiling at Tang San under the moonlight:

"Since you've already figured it out, then I'm at ease. Ge, I believe you will definitely be the most capable Spirit Master. I won't disturb you, I'm leaving first."

Finished speaking, she walked into the log cabin, collecting the lunch box and prepared to leave.

"Wait a moment."

Tang San stopped Xiao Wu, reaching behind her in a few steps, cautiously pulling up the long hair already trailing on the ground.

“I’ll help you comb your hair, you can leave afterwards.”

A blush bloomed on Xiao Wu’s cheeks. Stretching back her hand and handing over a comb, she softly lowered her head.

The two meter long hair was so supple it originally didn’t need any great effort to comb, but Tang San spent a full hour. Compared to last time, the braid he made this time was a lot better. In that peace and warm fragrance, his heart suddenly became incomparably penetrating.

Once Xiao Wu left, Tang San didn’t return to the log cabin, but rather walked into the woods, slowly roaming the forest with the log cabin as the center, walking without pause. If one observed carefully, one could discover that his pace was unusually measured, the distance of each step practically exactly the same.

Even more peculiarly, Tang San always had his eyes closed. Walking without using his eyes to see, he still didn’t bump into any trees, using the best path to unhurriedly advance.

Faint white light began to gradually appear over his body. In the places he passed, the exuberant blue silver grass on the ground would subsequently sway rhythmically.

Tang San walked just like this a whole night. After the night, as he returned to meditate in the log cabin, the blue silver grass in the forest seemed to have become more lush than before.

.....

One month’s time isn’t particularly long, but this one month couldn’t be called relaxed for the Shrek Seven Devils. Tang San only spent ten days in seclusion in the log cabin, returning to his companions after the ten days to accept Grandmaster’s hell training alongside them.

The training Grandmaster gave them wasn’t the same as before. According to what Grandmaster told them, this time’s training was

called the potential stimulating plan.

How was potential stimulated? Grandmaster explained it very simply, the greater the pressure, the greater the propulsion, the easier it would be to stimulate their potential.

Therefore, this potential stimulation plan consisted of constant battle. The Shrek Seven Devils didn't confront a lot of opponents. Only one. Slaughtering corner, Liu Erlong.

Liu Erlong's spirit power wasn't the strongest in the Academy. Compared to Zhao Wuji and Flender she was roughly a bit lower.

But in terms of combat ability, neither Zhao Wuji or Flender would dare confront her. Her attack methods consisted completely of that kind of berserk oppression, as frantic as an erupting volcano. She basically wouldn't give her opponents any chance to catch their breath.

Before Tang San emerged from the log cabin, Dai Mubai and the others would every day learn the intricacies of masochism under Liu Erlong's torrential attacks, but after Tang San's return, this situation changed. Even though they were still beaten, it wasn't as unsightly.

"Seven as one."

Tang San shouted loudly, swiftly retreating.

Right now he was already completely unable to breathe. An enormous flame in the shape of a giant dragon hiding the sky and covering the earth rushed out. Even though he was immune to fire, the tremendous force of impact contained within that flame wasn't something he had the ability to withstand.

Notes

1. $1\text{尺} = \frac{1}{3}\text{ m}$
2. A small force diverting a large force.

109 – Outschemed Liu Erlong

Part 1

It was the last day before the ranking competition, and this day was also the Shrek Seven Devils' last time confronting Liu Erlong.

Without the slightest hesitation, Dai Mubai and Ma Hongjun simultaneously interposed themselves in front of Tang San, blocking stiffly.

Dai Mubai's body had already expanded to the limit, White Tiger Barrier and White Tiger Vajra Transformation used simultaneously. But Ma Hongjun burst with Bathing Fire Phoenix and Phoenix Ascension, his chubby body soaring in midair, blocking above as Dai Mubai did below. Fully using their spirit power, they obstructed Liu Erlong's attack, giving Tang San time to fight.

At the same time, the others didn't stay idle either. Three lines of light shot out simultaneously, two of them falling on Dai Mubai and Ma Hongjun, releasing an aura of defense, while the third fell on Xiao Wu with a speed boost. The user of these three lines of light was Ning Rongrong. The Nine Treasure Glazed Tile Pagoda in her hand shone brilliantly, providing the optimum support while saving the most spirit power.

Xiao Wu had already leapt, pouncing straight at Liu Erlong. But Liu Erlong didn't seem to see her, both hands spreading, two lines of Fire Dragon energy struck at Zhu Zhuqing approaching from the side, suppressing her.

But at this moment, a silhouette soared high up in the air, incorporeal wings flapping behind his back, Tang San.

Using a flying mushroom to provide one minute of fast flight, let him soar far into the air.

Liu Erlong practically unconsciously raised her head to look at Tang San, but what met her was two beams of purple golden light.

Even if Liu Erlong was a Spirit Sage, she still shuddered a moment under that powerful mental attack. The spirit ability she had just prepared to use was immediately obstructed. And this moment was when Xiao Wu only was five meters away from her.

The Soft Bones Demon Rabbit's second spirit ability, Demon Confusion, launched.

Under normal circumstances, Xiao Wu's Demon Confusion would clearly have been ineffective on Liu Erlong, she would even have been injured by Liu Erlong's mental strength backlash. But right now was different. Liu Erlong's mind was at its weakest when under Tang San's Purple Demon Eye mental attack. Xiao Wu's Demon Confusion ability immediately showed results, increasing the time Liu Erlong was deadlocked by two seconds.

Hardly sparing her spirit power, the next moment, Xiao Wu's third spirit ability, Teleportation, launched. Her body abruptly appeared behind Liu Erlong, subconsciously avoiding a frontal attack. Her legs wound around Liu Erlong's waist, and Waist Bow launched.

Liu Erlong's spirit power really was too great. Even if Xiao Wu's Waist Bow instantly doubled her strength, it still wasn't enough to throw Liu Erlong. But under this kind of stun, Liu Erlong still couldn't stand firm. The spirit power within her body erupted, wanting to shock Xiao Wu loose.

But, the degree of toughness of Xiao Wu's body was so valiant that even with Liu Erlong's spirit power, it still wasn't easy to shake her off in an instant. And confronting her adopted daughter, Liu Erlong was also unwilling to use her flame attack to injure Xiao Wu.

Only at truly close range could the frightfulness of Xiao Wu's Soft Skill be experienced.

Her bone maggot-like attack method basically didn't give the opponent any chance to strike back. After getting close, none of the other Shrek Seven Devils could match Xiao Wu in use of strength.

Right now, even though she was unable to throw Liu Erlong, Liu Erlong had no doubt also lost her agility.

Zhu Zhuqing suddenly stopped after her retreat, her figure flashed, turning into three. It was her fourth spirit ability, Hell Shadow Doppelgänger. Immediately afterward, her third spirit ring also flared. The three claws of the figures rose simultaneously, launching Hell Decapitation.

Zhu Zhuqing's Hell Shadow Doppelgänger wasn't like the mirages Xiao Wu produced with speed, for a brief moment, her doppelgängers had the power to attack.

And this moment coordinating the third spirit ability Hell Decapitation was doubtless like three separate Hell Decapitations simultaneously striking in one direction.

Coordinating the fourth spirit ability with the third spirit ability, no doubt made her attack power increase geometrically.

At this moment, Ma Hongjun and Dai Mubai erupted as well.

The two both fully used two spirit abilities, White Tiger Barrier and White Tiger Vajra Transformation already raised Dai Mubai's spirit power to its peak condition, and Fatty's phoenix flame also equally reached its peak under the boost of Phoenix Ascension and Bathing Fire Phoenix.

Under such circumstances, the two turned from defense to offense in an instant. Dazzling white meteors fell from the sky, blasting at Liu Erlong. Fatty already swiftly flew in front of Liu Erlong under Phoenix Ascension's effect.

Xiao Wu's delicate body leapt backwards, her mission already complete. And the split second she leapt back, the Spider Web Restraint Tang San shot from the air landed on Liu Erlong.

Tang San, Dai Mubai, Ma Hongjun, Zhu Zhuqing, the four main attackers were simultaneously suffused with a layer of pink light, the might of their spirit abilities reaching the peak in a split second. And the splendor of the Nine Treasure Glazed Tile Pagoda also changed at this moment. Altogether eight rays of light separately falling on the

four of them. Each person had support from two rays of light, Ning Rongrong's spirit power boost and attack power boost.

Under the support of the pink stimulating sausage and Ning Rongrong's all out dual boost, right now the attack power of Tang San and the others had doubtless reached the limit.

Hong——

The first to erupt was Fatty's Phoenix Cry Sky Strike, the distorted space just taking the place of Xiao Wu's Demon Confusion, accurately acting as a follow up strike. An enormous pillar of flame burst up, its attack power erupting completely.

The attack from below shocked Liu Erlong's body, even though her flame resistance was very high, the adhering properties of Fatty's phoenix flame were extremely powerful, finally having an enormous restrictive effect on her fire dragon breath.

And those three Hell Decapitations and the White Tiger Meteor Shower in midair also all accurately struck Liu Erlong.

From Tang San's use of Purple Demon Eye, up to the quadruple cooperative attack, the whole process left Liu Erlong without any chance to resist. The initial and follow-up restraining abilities completely restrained her from acting.

"Fuck, you little bastards."

Enduring White Tiger Meteor Shower and three Hell Decapitations finally brought Liu Erlong back from the daze. Under such circumstances, even she had no choice but to use her most powerful defensive ability.

Magnificent flaming radiance burst out from within her body, Fire Dragon Avatar erupted.

But at this moment, in the ground below Liu Erlong, suddenly, countless knife sharp incomparable Blue Silver Grass abruptly exploded out, a one diameter circle of Blue Silver Grass caught up to her in a flash. The timing when the Blue Silver Grass erupted was the moment after Liu Erlong had taken White Tiger Meteor Shower,

Hell Decapitation, and Phoenix Cry Sky Strike, when her defense was at its weakest, just transforming into Fire Dragon Avatar.

Tang San's forth spirit ability Blue Silver Prison's variant version Blue Silver Thrust, launched.

Tang San had waited for this opportunity all along. Ten days of secluded cultivation let him figure out a great many things. Blue Silver Prison wasn't powerful in itself, but its superiority lay in ease of control. Under the effect of his fourth spirit ability, Blue Silver Grass would become incomparably hard, and utilizing this fact, Tang San had developed this Blue Silver Thrust. The same as Blue Silver prison, the most terrifying part of Blue Silver Thrust wasn't its attack power, but rather its unexpectedness. Right now, even Liu Erlong couldn't help jumping with fright.

Tyrannical piercing power once again slammed at the not yet completely turned into Fire Dragon Avatar Liu Erlong, and at this moment, a black little hammer dropped from the sky, just falling on top of Liu Erlong's head.

A dizzy feeling spread through her entire body, and Liu Erlong's Fire Dragon Avatar was forcibly interrupted by that intense daze. Immediately afterwards, her ears caught a burst of mechanical sounds.

Peng——

A ragged Liu Erlong fell to the ground. Even if she hadn't suffered any true injuries by relying on the defensive abilities she had launched at the start of the battle as well as her formidable spirit power, right now her clothes were already substantially damaged, the qi and blood within her body roiling, for a moment unexpectedly unable to use spirit abilities of her third spirit ring and higher.

And at this moment, she also clearly saw the Shrek Seven Devils. These seven little fellows each had a black square box in their hands, just smiling and chattering looking at her. Clearly they didn't intend to shoot her, but Liu Erlong still felt a chill run down her back.

No matter how she couldn't understand why these little monsters

suddenly became so ferocious today. Just yesterday they had still been oppressed by her. But in this fight today, Liu Erlong had been completely unable to display her strength.

“Alright, it’s over. Erlong, you lost.”

Grandmaster’s slightly stiff voice echoed.

Unwinding the mechanisms, the Shrek Seven Devils simultaneously withdrew their Godly Zhuge Crossbows, stretching out their right hands and making victory signs. Ning Rongrong was even shouted excitedly.

Yes, even if there were seven of them, the one they defeated today was an immense seventy something ranked Spirit Sage, and moreover had terrifying attack power, burst strength so tyrannical she was known as the Slaughtering Corner, Liu Erlong. How couldn’t they be excited?

“I don’t accept it.”

Liu Erlong walked over in front of Grandmaster in a spitting rage,

“Why did I lose? They didn’t even really hurt me. If it went on, I would definitely win. Even those Godly Zhuge Crossbows of theirs might not be able to really hurt me.”

Seeing Liu Erlong seething, Grandmaster raised a hand to help her sort out her disorderly red hair. Shaking his head with a smile, he said:

“No, you already lost. Didn’t you notice they already went easy on you? Mubai and Zhuqing’s spirit fusion ability wasn’t used, and Tang San still held back his external spirit bone.”

Part 2

“Since they could link up other spirit abilities, then they shouldn’t be unable to join together two powerful abilities. You lost out of carelessness, when Tang San stunned you with Purple Demon Eye, you had already lost any chance. These little fellows basically

wouldn't give you the time to retaliate. Constantly hit with restraining abilities, what could you have done? Even if your strength exceeds theirs by far, that's still no good against an explosive bombardment maneuver like theirs. You were outsmarted by them."

Liu Erlong turned fiercely, looking at the Shrek Seven Devils excitedly celebrating their victory,

"Hurray, you little bastards, how long have you been scheming against an old woman?"

Oscar grinned, saying:

"You're too strong, if we didn't do this, how could we be your opponent?"

Liu Erlong angrily said:

"This old woman should fully use her spirit avatar once, then teach all of you a proper lesson."

"Useless. They have too many interrupting abilities. They wouldn't give you the chance to use spirit avatar. Your other abilities also aren't enough to beat them. With two auxiliaries, they can completely boost the strength of two or three people above the fiftieth rank. These little monsters have basically perfected their teamwork. If it was Flender here, the result would still be the same."

Grandmaster looked at the group of children in front of him with satisfaction, they had clearly grown a lot in just this one month. Moreover, their growth speed was faster than even he had imagined. Not just Tang San, but all of them.

Right now, the spirit power of the seven had also reached the limit of their rank under Liu Erlong's pressure, already not far from promoting.

Grandmaster very naturally embraced Liu Erlong's shoulders,

"These seven little monsters started planning against you at least three days ago. With this kind of teamwork, even if you could defeat them, it wouldn't be easy to oppress them like you did the last few

days. They were showing weakness to the enemy, making you drop your guard. They are clearly unable to defeat you in true strength, but in circumstances where they're showing weakness, it would be impossible for you to take the initiative and use your more powerful spirit abilities. Consequently, your defeat today."

Liu Erlong looked fiercely at the Shrek Seven Devils,

"Hurray. You seven little creatures actually dared scheme against me. You're toast. Come, let's continue exchanging pointers. If this old woman doesn't beat you until you're crying today, then my name isn't Liu Erlong."

"Ah!"

Before Liu Erlong even charged, the Shrek Seven Devils were already screaming. Everyone's pleading gazes fell on Grandmaster.

Grandmaster raised his head to look at the sky, very flatly saying:

"Even though your tactics were pretty good, the one you schemed against was after all your teacher's wife. Let her vent her anger. Erlong, start off a bit leniently."

The Shrek Seven Devils,

"....."

In the next several hours, the classes in Shrek Academy's main school building could all clearly hear blood curdling screams echoing continuously. Apparently, the forest behind the academy had become a world of misery.

Most miserable were Tai Long's quartet. They didn't have any part in the scheme against Liu Erlong, but they still couldn't avoid their share of the beating.

The Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament ranking competition wasn't as bustling as the qualifiers. In order to protect the privacy of the spirit masters, and also out of security considerations, not spectators were allowed at the ranking competition.

The ranking competitions were still held by the two great empires, the thirty teams selected in the qualifiers competing in each of their empires. But the three teams seeded to participate in the finals didn't participate.

On the Heaven Dou Empire's side, including the five teams that passed the Heaven Dou City qualifiers, altogether fifteen teams had already completed their registration procedures in the morning, gathering at the ranking competition site.

The teams were few, but being capable of passing the qualifiers, they were no doubt all the elite of the elite.

The ten teams from the five kingdoms and duchies all came a bit earlier in order to familiarize themselves with the surroundings. At the same time, they also carried numerous promises from the kingdom or duchy they represented. If they could make a good showing, the rewards they could obtain might be even greater than what emperor Xue Ye promised.

After all, those kingdoms and duchies all had even greater thirsts for talents. Who didn't wish to grasp even more formidable spirit masters in their hands?

Spirit Masters had long since become the decisive element on the battlefields of Douluo Continent, and the number of high level Spirit Masters was also the basis when weighing the power of the sides. It was also because of this that Spirit Hall held such a high position. Even the two great empires didn't dare lightly offend them, fully aware that those kingdoms and duchies were all secretly backed by Spirit Hall. They dared be angry, but not say anything.

The imperial household hunting grounds were fifty kilometers southwest of Heaven Dou City. The hunting grounds were a vast area with varied terrain, both hunting grounds and training area for imperial household staff.

On ordinary days, commoners weren't allowed anywhere near. It was patrolled and protected by ten thousand imperial household knights, who simultaneously drilled here. The duty roster was rotated into training every three months, to maintain fighting strength.

The imperial household knights regiment was considered the most powerful force at the disposal of Heaven Dou Empire's imperial household.

In order needless trouble and conflicts, and also to prevent the strength of each team entering the ranking competition from being observed by others, all the fifteen advanced spirit master academy teams entering were arranged in separate resting areas.

The Heaven Dou imperial household had clearly prepared for the competition far in advance, and the first thing the Shrek Academy party saw when they arrived early in the morning, was the enormous imperial household knights regiment.

Without exception, the entire Heaven Dou imperial household knights regiment wore brightly shining silvery armor, the solid plates possessing astonishing defensive power. Even their mounts were carefully chosen, Skysoul Horses possessing a degree of spirit beast blood. Horses like these didn't have any kind of offensive capability, but their surprising speed, enormous carrying capacity, as well as outstanding endurance, always made these the first choice for cavalry.

The horses also wore armor, but even with the weight of the knights in bright armor, it couldn't influence the speed of these steeds.

If a team of cavalry like this launched a charge, their power would inevitably be astonishing.

The imperial household knights regiment was the result of the efforts of the Heaven Dou imperial household to create a group of elite troops. There were fifty thousand men in all, and all hundred men captains and higher were spirit masters. This was also an extremely expensive army, but its military power was equally tremendous. At least there was no way the several great kingdoms and duchies subordinate to Heaven Dou Empire dared act blindly without thinking under its threat.

"Please present your letter."

The Shrek Academy party was blocked by a group of imperial

household knights. The so-called letter was the proof of advancement qualifications.

Flender handed over the proof to the counterpart, and that silver armored, red-tasseled knight immediately saluted.

“Welcome, Spirit Masters of Shrek Academy. I am Heaven Dou imperial household knights regiment’s third brigade captain Roxon, please follow me.”

Finished speaking, he didn’t mount up, but led the Shrek Academy’s more than ten people into the hunting ground under escort of fifty fully armed imperial household knights.

Cresting a small hill, everyone suddenly saw a wide open space emerge in front of them. It was an expansive grassland, stretching to the horizon, giving a liberating feeling, indescribably pleasurable.

A large area of barracks formed a circle in the grasslands. Roxon pointed at the camp,

“The Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament’s ranking competition will be held at the center of the barracks. We can absolutely guarantee the safety and privacy of all the guests.”

Tang San’s heart twitched, thinking to himself that the Heaven Dou imperial household had spent a lot of painstaking effort. Holding the ranking competition among these barracks would certainly mean the imperial household knights would become spectators. A showdown of Spirit Masters would inevitably have a certain energizing effect on the knights, rousing their diligent resolution and fighting spirit even more.

The Shrek Academy party was led into the camp and allocated five rooms for their rest area. The army’s barracks naturally couldn’t be called luxurious, but they were swept unusually clean. Clearly it was prepared in advance of their arrival.

Until the end of the ranking competition, the Shrek Academy’s fourteen members would all stay here.

The ranking competition would also follow a round robin format, but since there were a lot fewer teams, the time allocated for the competition dropped from one month to half a month. After another half month of rest, the finals would ultimately be held on the border between Heaven Dou and Star Luo Empires.

Roxon gave Flender a standard military salute,

“Sir dean, please rest early. The ranking competition will officially start tomorrow. At that time, special guides will bring you to the competition area. The ranking competition doesn’t have an opening ceremony, and will start directly with matches. The outcome of the matches will be decided jointly by the Empire and Spirit Hall, to ensure fairness.”

“Thank you, captain Roxon.”

Flender returned the salute with a smile.

Roxon, somewhat overwhelmed with the favor, said:

“I dare not, with your leave, I will withdraw.”

Capable of becoming the imperial household knights regiment third brigade captain, he was naturally also a Spirit Master. But only at the forty fourth rank. Facing the dean of an advanced Spirit Master academy, he was naturally brimming with admiration.

Flender assigned everyone to the rooms very quickly. Liu Erlong and Xiao Wu to one room, Ning Rongrong, Jiang Zhu and Zhu Zhuqing to one room. He and Grandmaster to one room. The remaining two rooms were split between Tang San, Dai Mubai and the other male students.

Just when they had settled in, this temporary dwelling also received two guests. If saying that the arrival of Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School master Ning Fengzhi came as a surprise to Tang San, then the person who came with him was even more unexpected.

Part 3

Between the five barracks was an independent courtyard. Tang San had just left his luggage in the courtyard to stretch, when he saw the two approaching.

“Hello uncle Ning, your Highness, how come you’re here too?”

The person with Ning Fengzhi wasn’t a stranger, but Heaven Dou Empire’s crown prince, Xue Qinghe.

Xue Qinghe wore common noble’s attire, without anything particularly luxurious. He gave an impression of an average noble, especially when standing next to the elegant Ning Fengzhi. The contrast alone kept him from drawing attention.

If Tang San hadn’t met him before, he absolutely wouldn’t have thought he had such noble status.

Xue Qinghe had a mild smile,

“Brother Tang, I didn’t come for you. This time I’m here with my imperial father to watch the ranking competition and took the chance to come look in on you. How is it? Is this place suitable? If you have any complaints, I’ll call over someone to move you somewhere else.”

Tang San hurriedly shook his head, saying:

“No need to take the trouble, here is already very good. Many thanks for your Highness’ concern.”

Xue Qinghe’s brows wrinkled slightly, saying:

“Brother Tang, there’s no need to keep calling me crown prince, crown prince. I’m a few years older than you, so if you don’t mind, just call me big brother Xue. Can I call you by your name?”

Tang San still had a very favorable impression of Xue Qinghe. Compared to his little brother Xue Beng, the two were practically as different as heaven and earth. Even though Xue Qinghe wasn’t very old, his shrewdness was very deep. But no matter how you put it, on the surface he gave people a very comfortable impression.

Not only didn’t he have any of the arrogance of a crown prince, that amiable and approachable impression was very easy to accept.

Even if he clearly had the intention of recruiting Tang San, he didn't force the issue.

"Alright, big brother Xue. Then I'll address you like this from now. Please, come sit inside."

Tang San hastily showed Xue Qinghe and Ning Fengzhi into the barracks.

Ning Fengzhi smiling shook his head, saying:

"We won't sit down, we're only here for a look. Rongrong is? Not having seen that girl for a while, I've really missed her."

"Dad."

Ning Rongrong's voice resounded at just that moment, her lovable figure running out from a room,

"Why did you come?"

Directly throwing herself into Ning Fengzhi's embrace, Ning Rongrong had an excited expression.

By now, the others had also all walked out from the rooms. Xue Qinghe made a hushing gesture at Tang San who immediately caught on: clearly he didn't want his identity known, and naturally also no inappropriate introductions.

Flender and Grandmaster came to greet them,

"School master Ning, hello."

Ning Fengzhi smiled:

"Dean Flender, we're passing by. We heard you'd already checked in, and came to take a look in passing. At the same time I would still be so presumptuous as to ask a favor."

"Eh? School master Ning, please speak."

Flender looked with some astonishment at this character with a decisive role among the seven great schools. He didn't understand what matter he would come to him for.

Ning Fengzhi said:

“Rongrong is indebted to your noble institution’s dean and teachers for all the care and instruction. Her strength has advanced by leaps and bounds, I don’t know how much stronger she has become compared to when she was at the school. It seems that my Seven Glazed Tile School’s internal education has still has a great many issues. Therefore, when next semester starts, I want to have some school disciples enroll at Shrek Academy, I don’t know whether that would be inconvenient?”

“What?”

Flender thought he had misheard. Compared to Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School, Shrek Academy’s position was far too lacking, he really hadn’t expected Ning Fengzhi to raise a request like this.

“School master Ning, is this appropriate? How could our Academy compare to the instruction of your noble school?”

Ning Fengzhi smiled:

“There’s nothing inappropriate, isn’t Rongrong the best example? I’ll say it directly, my decision to have school disciples study at your Academy is mainly to interact with Grandmaster. I believe that Grandmaster’s capability to instruct students is second to none on the Continent, Grandmaster’s intellectual knowledge is also worthy to sigh in praise over.”

Flender suddenly understood. Indeed, even though Grandmaster was previously known for his theoretical knowledge, his reputation in the Spirit Master world originated even more in their Golden Iron Triangle trinity combination.

But along with Tang San revealing his outstanding talent, as a perspicacious person, Ning Fengzhi naturally understood that this was inextricably linked with Grandmaster’s instruction. Since Grandmaster could instruct one genius, he could naturally instruct a second, a third, and even more. Ning Fengzhi was worthy of being the school master of one of the three upper sects, his insight made Flender secretly sigh in praise.

Grandmaster's expression twitched. He just wanted to say something, but seeing Flender's imploring gaze, his words went back down. If the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School could cooperate with Shrek Academy, it would have an enormous impact on the future growth of Shrek Academy.

With the backing of Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School, Shrek Academy would doubtless immediately be promoted to the level of the Continent's most famous academies.

Even though Grandmaster really didn't want to be tied down to a routine, recalling everything Flender had done for him and Liu Erlong all these years, he really didn't have the heart to refuse again. He could only agree.

Ning Fengzhi didn't seem to see the embarrassment on Grandmaster's face, and smiled at Flender:

"As for the concrete arrangements, I'll wait to speak with dean about it until after the end of the Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Tournament. The ranking competition is the stage to reveal the strength of the individual, and it's also the best opportunity to temper these children. Here, let me be the first to congratulate Shrek Academy on achieving a good record."

Flender hurriedly expressed his thanks.

At this point, Xue Qinghe to the side said:

"Teacher, it's getting late. We should leave."

Flender's gaze turned to Xue Qinghe,

"I still haven't asked, this is?"

Ning Fengzhi smiled:

"He's my disciple, called Xue Qinghe."

Xue Qinghe took the initiative to salute Flender, saying:

"Greetings, dean Flender."

Flender was also a person experienced in the ways of the world,

and even though Xue Qinghe's clothes weren't particularly outstanding, his temperament absolutely wasn't something common nobles possessed. But he wouldn't unmask anything, and only immediately returned the politeness, smiling and nodding to Xue Qinghe.

Ning Rongrong somewhat resentfully said:

"Dad, you've only just come and you're leaving again! It's a pity I'm auxiliary system and can't go on stage in the ranking competition, otherwise I'd definitely show you my present strength!"

Ning Fengzhi laughed out loud, saying:

"No need to see it, don't tell me I couldn't feel relieved handing you over to dean Flender and the others? Continue working hard, you're the hope of the school's future. I've talked it over with the school's inner elders, once you've graduated from Shrek Academy, you'll be formally declared the successor as the next sect master."

Ning Rongrong stuck out her tongue. Clearly she wasn't particularly interested in the position of Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School master.

Ning Fengzhi's expression was flat,

"This isn't a responsibility you can avoid. Dad has a daughter like you, if I can't hand over the sect to you, who else? No need to be dissatisfied. With dad's current health, enduring for another few decades isn't any problem, is that still not enough time for you to play?"

Ning Rongrong saw how her father worried, and immediately couldn't help but blush. But in her heart she still wasn't happy, and subconsciously, her gaze floated sideways, falling on the not distant Oscar, a burst of nervousity springing up unbidden.

Even though she had already decided to tell Oscar about the school rules after this tournament, but for some reason, as time passed, she found that the courage in her heart was growing less and less.

Ever since she agreed to give Oscar a chance, for half a year,

Oscar had trained as if his life depended on it every day, and his gifts had also gradually emerged. He laughed and joked a lot less, and his strength had truly advanced.

His growth was so fast it astonished even Grandmaster. Grandmaster had said that Oscar was the second person after Tang San to advance to the forty second rank.

Even as a food system Spirit Master, his growth speed was unexpectedly faster than Zhu Zhuqing, Ma Hongjun and the others. This could only prove that he expended more effort than anyone else.

Ning Fengzhi once again said his goodbye's to Flender and Grandmaster.

"Tang San, see you again. I'll wait to see your elegance in the ranking competition."

Ning Fengzhi also called out to Tang San, and the two left the courtyard, seen off by everyone.

Returning to the camp, Flender pulled Tang San aside,

"Little San, who was that person with Ning Fengzhi just now? Wasn't he the prince of Heaven Dou Empire?"

Tang San's heart twitched, thinking to himself that ginger really grew spicier with age,

"He's Heaven Dou Empire's crown prince. I met him once before."

Flender's expression shifted slightly, a trace of a smile at the corner of his mouth,

"It seems that along with you revealing your talent, our Shrek Academy will really bask in the reflected light."

The ranking competition didn't have multiple stages like the qualifiers, but rather only had one competition area, the great drilling field of the imperial household knight regiment.

Altogether fifteen teams participated in the ranking competition,

conducting a round robin tournament of fourteen rounds. Each day was one round, and each day would have one team rest, and seven matches. They were all conducted in this one space.

The great drilling field had been remodeled, with a one hundred meter in diameter area drawn in the center. Compared to the stages of the qualifiers, this space was even wider, and naturally also even easier to fully use their strength.

On the north side of the great drilling grounds, VIP seats were built facing south, and these were also the referee seats. This time there weren't as many VIP spectators as last time.

There were a lot fewer nobles. As far as the eye could see, apart from emperor Xue Ye, Ning Fengzhi and platinum bishop Salas in the first row, the seats behind were all taken by people dressed like generals and high level attendants from Spirit Hall's Heaven Dou City Spirit Temple.

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Part 1

Group battles were after all chaotic, making it very difficult to see things clearly. And different from the qualifiers, each student would be revealing their own strength under the gazes of all the spectators. This was also the best opportunity to evaluate the strength of the Spirit Masters.

The edges of the great drill grounds were completely surrounded by ten thousand imperial household knights, forming a watertight encirclement, helmets bright and armor shining. The front row of knights stood, while the back rows were mounted.

This kind of strict defense could be called watertight. Of course, just like Tang San suspected, emperor Xue Ye's goal was to let his most elite subordinate knights take a look at the strength of the new generation of Spirit Masters, using this to ignite their fighting spirit.

Between the great circle of knights and the competition ground, fifteen competing teams were finally arranged. Even the team that could rest today was no exception. Even if they didn't compete, they still had to gauge the strength of the opponents.

The rules were very simple. Both sides would each participate with seven team members. Each team that went up would fight until defeated, continuing to fight the next opponent if they won, until the seven people on one side were completely defeated.

The lots had already been drawn last evening, and Shrek Academy didn't pull an empty lot for their first round. Their opponent was an

advanced Spirit Master academy from Balak Kingdom. Their turn was the third in the seven matches for today.

The different areas were sorted so teams were grouped by their qualifiers. Tang San naturally saw the familiar rivals of the four elemental academies, and as they looked towards Shrek Academy, several people's gazes fell on Tang San.

Those included Godwind Academy team captain Feng Xiaotian, Blazing Academy siblings Huo Wushuang and Huo Wu, Skywater Academy team captain Shui Bing-Er, as well as the Thunderclap Academy team captain Tang San had never seen before, a youth with ordinary build and unremarkable appearance.

Grandmaster gathered everyone around him, his gaze sweeping across all the eleven Shrek Academy team members,

"Next I'll announce the order in which you'll go up. Xiao Wu, you go up first, after is Tang San, and Dai Mubai."

Everyone were still listening, but Grandmaster had already finished.

Dai Mubai couldn't help asking:

"Grandmaster, aren't we going to send seven people?"

Grandmaster smiled calmly, saying:

"Don't tell me the three of you don't have the confidence to end the match? Even though the opponents of the ranking competition are a bit powerful, they still won't be stronger than the four elemental academies. One on one doesn't need any teamwork, only strength."

That simple sentence immediately roused the fighting spirit of the Shrek Academy team. Tang San, Dai Mubai and Xiao Wu all looked at each other, and in each other's eyes they could all see conviction of certain victory.

Emperor Xue Ye stood from the VIP seats, speaking through a spirit tool:

"The ranking competition formally begins today. I hope all the academy teams will be able to amply display their strength in the

next fourteen days, displaying the proper elegance of Spirit Masters. Begin.”

As his words fell, shouts just like a landslide or tsunami resounded,

“Long live, long live, long live!”

The imperial household knights raised the lances in their hands, the sounds of their armor resonating with their voices, immediately startling the competing Spirit Masters. Undoubtedly the manifestation of a great nation’s bearing.

The first match began. Awesomely, first to appear was Blazing Academy. Their opponents was a team known as Fabia Academy.

The first to represent Blazing Academy was the team captain, Huo Wushuang. Clearly, Blazing Academy’s teacher thought much like Grandmaster. Not only would they win this first match, but also strike a large score.

In the final ranking of the ranking competition, besides the match points, individual fight victories were also important. If there was a tie in matches, the ranking would be arranged according to fights.

Tang San didn’t pay any attention the the match, but stood next to Xiao Wu, saying to her in a low voice:

“You’ll go first in our match later. If you find yourself restrained by the opponent, don’t force yourself. You can’t be injured, understand?”

Tang San had originally thought he would go up first, but hadn’t expected Grandmaster would send Xiao Wu. Unable to oppose it, he could only give Xiao Wu a few cautioning words.

Xiao Wu smiled calmly, pinching Tang San’s hand, saying:

“Don’t worry. Are you still uneasy about my one on one capability? If I can’t win, I’ll concede.”

Tang San stroked her head,

“Caution sails a ship for ten thousand years. Our opponents will get

stronger and stronger, we can't be careless."

The matches proceeded very quickly. Between Spirit Masters, if there was a gap in strength, the result would often be settled in an instant. The one with more powerful spirit abilities, with higher spirit power, would easily defeat their opponent. People with spirit bones were, after all, very few.

In one on one matches it was also impossible for something like spirit fusion ability to appear. Everything had to rely on one's own strength.

In the first match, Huo Wushuang successively defeated three people, then lost the next match after substantially consuming his spirit power.

The continuous battles didn't give time to rest. This was another area where the ranking competition was more interesting than the qualifiers, it didn't just test the strength of each member of the team, at the same time tactics and planning were extremely important. Even the most powerful Spirit Masters would find it difficult to consecutively defeat opponents by themselves.

After all, the more powerful the spirit ability, the more it limited spirit power.

The second to represent Blazing Academy was Huo Wu. It seemed that her expression was somewhat calmer than in the qualifiers, moving with the force of fifteen tons of thunder. Even though she was a girl, she gave the opponents enormous pressure in each fight. Judging by her appearance, this didn't seem to be a match, but more like life and death.

Relying on the advantages of a control system Spirit Master, Huo Wu unexpectedly successively defeated four people, the two siblings directly smashing the Fabia team.

When Huo Wu returned from the competition area, her physical strength was already somewhat overdrawn due to consuming a large amount of spirit power, but her pale charming face was still brimming with pride, her gaze fixed on Tang San without flinching,

and she moreover extended a forefinger, pointing at him.

Confronted with Huo Wu's provocation, Tang San only wrinkled his eyebrows and didn't express anything.

Because of Huo Wu's gesture, a lot of Spirit Masters from other kingdoms and duchies now paid attention to him.

Huo Wu had indeed become strong. Even though only one month had passed, that oppressive strength of hers had clearly grown a lot stronger, and her burst power was even more astonishing. It seemed that she really had worked hard in the past month.

Among all the fifteen competing teams, Fabia Academy was one of the weakest, but having easily defeated them by sending only two people, Blazing Academy had still put themselves in the spotlight among the competing academies.

The second match featured two teams Tang San wasn't particularly familiar with, however, among these strangers, he still saw one acquaintance.

A simple uniform drawing the outline of a perfect figure, a solid and slender serpent staff held crosswise. It was the Unrivalled Dragon Serpent's granddaughter, who originally fought Tang San over his third spirit ring, Meng Yiran.

Meng Yiran appeared on the competition ground as the vice captain of Cryptid Academy's team, in high spirits.

As the first tool Spirit Master to appear, she completely displayed the superiority of a tool Spirit Master.

Even though tool Spirit Masters didn't have the burst power of a beast Spirit Master, tool Spirit Masters won out in battle endurance. Relying on the extremely toxic serpent staff and her changeable severe attack methods, she unexpectedly also successively defeated three people.

Making Tang San not know whether to laugh or cry, as Meng Yiran walked off the competition ground, her gaze unexpectedly also fell on him, and she simultaneously imitated Huo Wu's gesture to hold

out a hand and point at him.

Meng Yiran had originally noticed him when Huo Wu pointed him out. This wasn't only a demonstration towards him, but also a challenge.

Sensing the gazes of numerous Spirit Master students fix on him, Tang San could only stand there helplessly. Even Oscar couldn't keep from snickering to the side:

"Little San, it seems you've really offended a lot of beautiful women. If you also add that Skywater Academy's Shui Bing-Er, you're going to have a lot of people as your enemies. You tell me, won't the students of other academies think you've discarded the two of them after playing around, turning love into hate?"

Tang San unhappily glared at Oscar,

"Little Ao, I feel it would be relatively suitable to let you go up for a match, how about I propose it to Teacher?"

"Eh....."

Oscar hastily smiled:

"Little San, we're good brothers! Big brother is an auxiliary system Spirit Master, it's still better to leave a difficult challenge like the ranking competition to you. You also don't want our Shrek Academy to lose face because of me."

While they chatted, the situation in the match had already started to change somewhat. Even though Cryptid Academy had Meng Yiran's three victories, the other students of their academy clearly weren't as powerful as her, and the opponents wore through four people. In the end the match finished with a close victory for Cryptid Academy after ten fights.

From the previous two matches, Tang San could already see that the kingdom and duchy academies still had a certain gap in strength to the five elemental academies.

There was at most only one fortieth ranked Spirit Master among the three academies that had already appeared, while the majority were

thirty something ranked. Like Meng Yiran, whose spirit power was presently only at the thirty seventh rank or so.

This suggested that the fight over the final ranking of the competition should be between the five teams from Heaven Dou City.

Part 2

Finally it was Shrek Academy's turn,

"Come."

Dai Mubai was first to extend his right hand, followed by Tang San, Xiao Wu, Oscar, Ma Hongjun, Zhu Zhuqing..... Eleven people put their hands together, cheering with loud voices.

Boosted by everyone's expressions filled with confidence, Xiao Wu unhurriedly walked into the competition area.

Shrek Academy's first opponents were from Balak Kingdom, their Royal academy. Just like Heaven Dou Imperial Academy's position in Heaven Dou Empire, their name was also the same as the kingdom's, Balak Academy.

First to appear from Balak Academy was a large youth, looking twenty something years old, wearing a black and gold uniform. When he saw Xiao Wu he couldn't help staring blankly.

There were two things that made him stare in a daze, one was Xiao Wu's appearance, and the other was naturally Shrek Academy's abnormal uniform.

The Shrek Academy uniform long since didn't have any room for advertisements, advertising logos could be found on practically each corner of the uniform. Shrek Academy was enormously famous in Heaven Dou City.

However, Balak Academy from Balak Kingdom naturally wouldn't know anything about this.

Seeing Xiao Wu's snot green and logo covered uniform, that big

youth immediately laughed. If Xiao Wu hadn't been a beautiful girl, he would definitely have mocked her.

"Little sister, how old are you? Your Shrek Academy wouldn't be without people, and sending you to make up the numbers? It would be no good if big brother is a bit serious and you get hurt. I think you had better go down. Find someone stronger to come over. This isn't a place you should be."

The big youth said earnestly.

Even though Xiao Wu's body was already close to that of an adult, she was still growing in some important areas. Moreover, her childish face clearly wasn't something someone in their twenties would have. Nobody would notice when fighting as a team where numerous people were mixed together, but in the current one on one format, both sides appearance were naturally conspicuous.

Xiao Wu frowned. That tall youth's voice was very loud, practically all the students around the competition area had heard him.

Oscar somewhat puzzled said to Ma Hongjun next to him:

"Fatty, what are you covering your eyes for?"

Ma Hongjun said with feeling:

"Because I can't bear to see it. Being so disdainful to Xiao Wu, I'm afraid this Balak Academy brother is out of luck. Did you forget that terrifying continuous throwing technique Xiao Wu has? I think it was called Eight Stage Drop. Eh, that's right, you weren't there. It's a pity, you didn't see the circumstances at that time. I really can't bear to see it."

While Ma Hongjun and Oscar were talking, the referee on the competition grounds had already declared the match started.

Xiao Wu was in no rush to act, and blinked at the big youth in front of her,

"Big brother, I think you're right, this really isn't a place I should be."

Even if her mouth said this, her body had already begun to change,

her spirit quietly releasing. Two yellow and one purple, three spirit rings spiralled up.

The tall Balak Academy youth should originally have paid attention to Xiao Wu's spirit rings and gone on alert, but just like Ma Hongjun said, he really was too contemptuous of Xiao Wu. Even more, he had complete confidence in his own strength. In the whole Balak Academy team, he was not only the captain, but also the strongest person, his spirit power surpassing fortieth rank. Unfortunately, his opponent was Xiao Wu.

The split second Xiao Wu's spirit released, a spirit ability also launched simultaneously. Second spirit ring ability, Demon Confusion, launched.

A yellow ring of light flared, and Xiao Wu's eyes became an alluring pink color. The tall youth immediately turned stupid, completely in a daze. And at this moment, Xiao Wu moved.

According to the competition rules, both sides started the match at a distance of twenty meters. Xiao Wu's long legs shot out forcefully, and in practically a split second, the distance between the two had closed to ten meters.

This tall youth still had higher spirit power than Xiao Wu, and his mind didn't stay stunned for too long. Subconsciously becoming aware he was in a bad situation, he hastily opened up his own spirit while still only fuzzily aware of the situation in front of him. At the same time he slapped his own face hard, clearing his head somewhat.

His reactions really weren't slow, and when Xiao Wu still was five meters away he had already completely sobered. With those growing three spirit rings in front of him, as well as Xiao Wu's rapid approach, how couldn't he be alarmed?

Raising both hands practically subconsciously, he launched his first spirit ability at Xiao Wu.

However, the instant he launched his spirit ability, he was once again staring blankly. Because, that opponent who had originally been in

front of him, had disappeared.

Xiao Wu appeared behind the tall youth with her back to him, scorpion braid whipping out, while that big youth was still shocked, he only felt his neck tighten.

Xiao Wu didn't even turn around. At the same time as the braid whipped around her opponent's neck, her left foot supporting on the ground, she raised her right foot behind her, planting it directly on the tall youth's waist. Her first spirit ability, Waist Bow, launched.

Pulled back by the braid, waist pushed up, the instantly erupting force immediately choked the big youth. The next moment, he was already completely thrown into the air by Xiao Wu.

Only a few moments had actually passed from the start of the competition until now. Launching Demon Confusion, Xiao Wu dashing forward, launching Teleport, applying Soft Skill, throwing the opponent. The entire process was as natural as flowing water and moving clouds, without the slightest pause.

It was also because of this that her opponent wasn't given any opportunity to react.

Leaning forward, Xiao Wu's braid quietly separated from her opponent. Now, she leapt high into the air to meet her uncontrollably spinning opponent.

At this point, this fight no longer held any suspense.

All spirit abilities required a bit of time to store up strength, but if the Spirit Master lost their balance, and were simultaneously locked down by a spirit power burst of their opponent, it was basically impossible to use any spirit abilities.

Whether it was Xiao Wu's Demon Confusion ability, or the spirit power she used after her scorpion braid wrapped around her opponent's neck, both had this kind of effect.

"Goodbye."

Xiao Wu's one hand grabbed the back of the tall youth's neck, her

left knee shooting up and, with a profound spirit power, heavily striking her opponent's waist. At the same time, Waist Bow launched. With a twist of her body and a simple throw, the big youth heavily struck the ground.

Hong——

When the big youth heavily impacted the ground, a lot of people had already closed their eyes. Xiao Wu fell from the sky, both her feet directly stomping on the tall youth's chest.

Under the enormous impulse, originally already confused by the throw, the tall youth's body immediately spasmed, violent pain making him unable to hold back a blood-curdling scream.

Raising a foot and kicking out, Xiao Wu's toes directly nudged her opponent's jaw. Turning at the same time, executing a beautiful pirouette on top of her opponent's chest, her other foot lightly nudged her opponent's temple. The tall youth sank into complete darkness, completely unconscious.

Three rings against four rings, a complete victory.

After the air froze for a brief moment, it immediately turned blazing. Voices of admiration, voices of alarm, all rose and fell in succession. Even those Spirit Master academies outside who had once fought Shrek Academy, the four element academy students were also unable to conceal their shock.

From start to finish, the fight had only taken a few moments.

Relying on her own strength, Xiao Wu basically didn't give the opponent any opportunity to resist. A forty something ranked Spirit Ancestor was perfectly smashed by her and could only release his first spirit ability. From start to finish, Xiao Wu had been in control of the battle.

Right now, his unconscious body was still constantly twitching on the ground.

As a result of injuries from having his chest stomped heavily, things constantly bubbled out of his mouth even in unconsciousness, foul

matter mixed with the blood. Even though his injuries might not be very serious, it would still be very difficult for him to participate in tomorrow's match.

Xiao Wu's face revealed a smile harmless to both men and beasts, her gaze floating over to the other Balak Academy team members, softly saying:

"Next."

One simple word, but it seemed to ignite a barrel of gunpowder. Seven or eight people from the Balak Academy side immediately leapt up, aggressively dashing at Xiao Wu.

"What are you doing?"

The referee appeared promptly, but he only used words to block the opponents.

"Want a group battle?"

The other six Shrek Seven Devils set foot on the competition grounds in practically the first moment. Xiao Wu even more took a step forward, only quietly looking at the approaching opposing side.

Actually, she really hadn't wanted to beat her opponent so miserably, but after she discovered her opponent's strength surpassed the fortieth rank, she had no choice but to go all out. Further adding that after launching Waist Bow, her strength wasn't completely under her control, this was her only choice in order to completely remove the opponent's ability to resist. After all, she was a close combat Spirit Master, she couldn't just release spirit abilities.

"Looking to die?"

Before the two sides could get close, a clear and cold voice shook everyone present. Her voice didn't sound very loud, but when it issued, it was clearly heard by the more than ten thousand people present.

Nobody on either side clearly saw when a person appeared in the middle, but with her appearance, a tyrannical matchless imposing

manner swept towards the Balak Academy side as if hiding the sky and covering the earth.

Part 3

That overbearingly tyrannical aura made even the pupils of Ning Fengzhi and platinum bishop Salas in the VIP seats contract.

This person suddenly appearing in the center of the arena was no stranger, but Slaughtering Corner Liu Erlong. What kind of temper did Liu Erlong have? Once ignited only Grandmaster could suppress her.

Right now Xiao Wu was her adopted daughter, and seeing the opponents attack en masse, how could she stay calm? Regardless of the occasion, she finally had a target to protect, how could she hold back?

Under the effect of Liu Erlong's formidably oppressive strength, the Balak Academy students all screeched to a halt practically in the same instant, looking at Liu Erlong with shock.

Liu Erlong's tyrannical aura didn't originate just from her spirit power, but at the same time also from her spirit and her own temper. Even though she was a Spirit Sage, that instantly erupting aura would shock even higher level Spirit Masters.

"This is a competition, what are you all doing?"

An ice cold voice resounded. If saying Liu Erlong's voice reached people's heart and soul, then this voice made people shiver.

Platinum bishop Salas had already stood up from his seat at some unknown time, his ice cold gaze watching both sides in the arena.

By now, Balak Academy's team coach had also entered the competition grounds.

His spirit power wasn't lower than Liu Erlong's, but looking at her overbearing appearance, for some reason he lacked confidence.

He turned and saluted the distant VIP seats,

“Please calm your anger, lord platinum bishop. We only wanted to carry away our team mate. We had no other intentions.”

Salas indifferently said:

“Both sides please remember your positions. Entering the grounds without the permission of the tournament staff will lead to immediate expulsion from the tournament.”

The originally volcanic scene was suppressed like this, but the smell of gunpowder between Shrek Academy and Balak Academy no doubt became even denser.

Xiao Wu still remained in the ring, and Tang San stepped off after giving her a few words of warning as he passed her.

Balak Academy was clearly infuriated, and astonishing the Shrek Academy party was the the second opponent to go up was unexpectedly also a Spirit Ancestor over fortieth rank. In the ring, he released his spirit without waiting for the referee to announce the start of the match. His spirit was very peculiar, a flower, with red center and yellow petals.

“Sunflower.”

Tang San frowned. Xiao Wu’s second opponent was a Spirit Master with a plant spirit. Sunflower was clearly of a quality Blue Silver Grass couldn’t compare to, possessing formidable restraining capability.

Wild sunflowers were capable of releasing an extraordinary scent, making people lose fighting capability, a kind of peculiar mental poison. And Sunflowers were furthermore hard as iron. With this as spirit, it could be treated as a weapon on its own, poison and attack equally serious.

Clearly, Xiao Wu’s opponent wasn’t easy to deal with.

Watching the opponent’s white, yellow, purple, and purple spirit rings, Xiao Wu’s expression also became serious. Her abilities had

already been revealed once, and the opponent would inevitably be on their guard against them. She naturally also knew about the Sunflower. Dealing with an opponent possessing poison attribute attacks was very difficult, especially when the opponent's spirit power was above hers.

"You'll pay for what you just did."

Even though this second Balak Kingdom team member to appear wasn't tall, he was extremely sturdy, with swelling muscles clearly visible over his wide shoulders. The sight of someone with this appearance cradling a delicate flower was also somewhat strange.

The referee reminded them:

"Don't forget the rules of the competition, if anyone violates them, they will lose the qualifications to compete."

Xiao Wu nodded along with her opponent, but the atmosphere between the two of them didn't show the slightest sign of weakening.

Xiao Wu knew that the difference between her and her opponent lay mainly in the fourth spirit ring, their actual level didn't differ much. Judging by the opponent's spirit power fluctuations, he should also have only just broken through the fortieth rank not long ago.

"Match start."

At the referee's announcement, the Balak Kingdom student's first spirit ring brightened instantly, and the Sunflower in his hands faced the wind and grew. In the blink of an eye, it had already grown into one meter in diameter, and the long stalk in his grasp had also reached more than three meters, instantly becoming a bizarre weapon.

With a wave of his hands, a dense yellow mist released from the Sunflower, directly enveloping Xiao Wu within.

At this moment Xiao Wu couldn't advance, therefore she could only retreat, backing away with big leaps. But despite this, she still caught a faint fragrance. The fragrance was very rich, and even though it was only a hint, Xiao Wu immediately felt her mind go dizzy.

In circumstances with equal level, especially when both sides didn't have very high spirit power, Poison Spirit Masters held a greatly advantageous position. As long as they used it appropriately, they could restrain their opponent to an enormous degree. Like this Balak Academy student, in terms of restraining attributes, besides spirits that specifically restrained poison, only ice and fire type spirits like what Huo Wu and Shui Bing-Er had might control him.

As the pit of her stomach tightened, Xiao Wu knew that the poison had already begun to take effect, and she hastily urged her spirit power to suppress it. But her opponent still didn't chase after, only continuously waving the Sunflower in his hands with a malicious smile, sending out that great yellow mist.

The area it covered began to grow bigger and bigger. By now, two spirit rings were already shining simultaneously.

Clearly, the first of these two spirit rings was to enlarge the Sunflower, and the other was this fog.

What should be done? Hesitation appeared briefly in Xiao Wu's heart. She knew that to defeat the opponent, she would have to break into the opponent's poison formation with the force of fifteen tons of thunder and settle him quickly. But wouldn't he be prepared for that?

He still hadn't used his third and fourth spirit abilities. In a situation where she couldn't get into close range, even though Xiao Wu still had enough spirit power to use abilities, it clearly wasn't enough to get close to the opponent.

Just at this moment, suddenly, a bizarre heat flowed into Xiao Wu's body through her chest, and her originally tight stomach immediately relaxed. Not just this, a layer of golden red light began to appear from within Xiao Wu's body, and in the blink of an eye, she was surrounded by a barrier of golden red light.

By now, the poison fog had just enveloped Xiao Wu's position, and a bizarre scene occurred. No matter how tremendous that poison fog, it was still unable to penetrate that golden red light.

Making Xiao Wu's opponent even more inconsolably shocked was that when the poison he had already released came into contact with the golden red light around Xiao Wu, it immediately melted away like ice and snow. In a moment, the poison fog had already been completely obliterated within ten square meters of Xiao Wu.

Let alone the opponent, right now even Xiao Wu herself didn't know what just happened, but with her combat experience she naturally wouldn't give up this opportunity, dashing at her opponent without the slightest hesitation.

"What's going on? What's that golden red colored light?"

Liu Erlong couldn't help questioning Grandmaster.

Grandmaster also had a baffled expression. Even though his research into spirits was incisive, the situation before his eyes still left him puzzled. Originally he hadn't had much belief in winning this fight, but that golden red light had rekindled his hope.

"I know."

Tang San suddenly said in a low voice, his face revealing a hint of a smile.

The Shrek Academy group's gazes all instantly focused on Tang San, who smiled and said:

"Do you still remember Xiao Wu's Yearning Heartbroken Red? As an immortal treasure among immortal treasures, the Yearning Heartbroken Red is undoubtedly a king among flowers, even the Aromatic Silk Beauty Immortal Treasure is far from being able to compare to it. The Sunflower is also a flower, even though the Yearning Heartbroken Red isn't particularly good at resisting poison, and Xiao Wu didn't eat it, the Yearning Heartbroken Red's position among flowers really is too high, after fusing with Xiao Wu's blood, it has already formed a certain connection with her. When the Sunflower launched an attack against Xiao Wu, the Yearning Heartbroken Red would naturally believe it was being provoked. Would the king of flowers suffer the provocation of flowers? How could it endure silently? This golden red colored light should be the

Yearning Heartbroken Red's Monarch Overlooking All Fragrance^[1] splendor."

Oscar couldn't keep from saying:

"Then how couldn't we be violating the tournament rules?"

Tang San smiled indifferently, saying:

"Even Teacher didn't notice, do you believe the panel of judges could see what's going on? That light is emitted from Xiao Wu's body, after all. It's not that she's using something. Keep watching."

Sure enough, just like Tang San said, the golden red light emitted by Xiao Wu's body came from the Yearning Heartbroken Red. Sensing the provoking aura of the Sunflower, the Yearning Heartbroken Red automatically protected itself.

Of course, it was only possible for this reaction to appear when it faced flowers. If it was some other poison, it would naturally be ineffective. This was also considered the bad luck of Xiao Wu's opponent.

Seeing his poison fog become ineffective and moreover his spirit power being substantially consumed as it melted away under the effect of that golden red light, that Balak Academy team member, with great alarm, had no choice but to use his third spirit ability.

Half turning, that Sunflower swung out. In an instant, countless specks of yellow light sprinkled out from the enormous flower, enveloping a large area with a powerful aura; dodging was clearly impossible.

Originally, Xiao Wu could have used Teleport to dodge, but for some reason there seemed to be a voice in her heart telling her there was no need. And Xiao Wu followed it subconsciously.

Once she came to herself and thought of using her spirit ability again, it was already too late.

Notes

1. (君临群芳) “All Fragrance” can also be interpreted as “all flowers”, where flowers can also be interpreted as talents or beauties.

111 – Fusion of Spirit Ability and Tang Sect Secret Techniques

Part 1

The concentrated yellow specks of lights instantaneously rushed into the golden red light radiating from Xiao Wu, what surprised both parties was that once the yellow lights entered the light protecting Xiao Wu, they disappeared like moths flying into a flame.

Not only did it not have the slightest effect, instead it even strengthened the light surrounding Xiao Wu, increasing its thickness from the original three cun^[1] to slightly more than one chi^[2], instantly wiping out the lights that were attacking her.

At the same moment, an extremely unusual aura was suddenly released from Xiao Wu's body, suddenly expanding the golden red light. Although the light got dimmer the further the distance, it still easily covered the opponent.

The referee was also encompassed within the light and he did not feel anything weird. however, it was a different story for Xiao Wu's opponent. Within the golden red light, he felt as though he was fighting against a Title Doulou.

All his spirit power instantly lost its effect, and the sunflower in his hand quietly withered in the light.

Xiao Wu was also shocked as the situation became one where she no longer needed to do anything. Along with the withering of the opponent's sunflower, the warm flow within her body also gradually disappeared. In a short moment, it completely disappeared and the dazzling bright golden red radiance faded away.

The match started normal but ended weirdly. Compared to the explosive first match, this one gave people an even more

unbelievable feeling. Xiao Wu who was only a Spirit Elder managed to defeat two Spirit Ancestors. This result shocked everyone present. Just as Xiao Wu was dazed, Tang San's soft voice rang in her ears,

"No matter who asks, just reply that you do not know why the golden red glow appeared. Keep silent and maintain a sense of mystery. Leave the rest to me."

At the same time, there was also a discussion going on in the VIP seats. Emperor Xue Ye looked towards Ning Fengzhi with astonishment, but Ning Fengzhi shook his head, indicating that he didn't know what the golden red glow was.

Platinum Bishop Salas however, spoke,

"I didn't expect Shrek Academy to actually still have someone who owns a spirit bone. This should be their hidden strength."

Spirit bone?

Emperor Xue Ye and Ning Fengzhi both revealed looks of agreement. From their perspective, that was the best explanation. Xiao Wu didn't take out any spirit tool, and that golden red glow was obviously not an ability that a spirit tool should have. It would be most reasonable to think that that was a spirit bone ability.

Emperor Xue Ye took a deep breath.

"However, that spirit bone ability seems rather too strong. It made the opponent's spirit wither instantly. If looking purely at spirit power, this student from Balak Academy seems to be more seriously injured than the previous one."

Ning Fengzhi smiled faintly.

"Your majesty might not be aware, but if I guess correctly, this ability of Xiao Wu's has a specific target, it does not work on every spirit. Maybe, only plant type spirits will be countered by it, perhaps the range might be even narrower."

As the Seven Glazed Tile School master and the world's number one

support type Spirit Master, Ning Fengzhi's knowledge was obviously bountiful. If the golden red glow Xiao Wu released worked on any spirit, wouldn't that be unequalled under Heaven?

In this rare moment, Salas did not argue with Ning Fengzhi and said:

"I agree with School Master Ning. This should be an extremely normal spirit bone that only happened to coincide with the situation and was used to great effect. That doesn't mean anything."

The referee was naturally suspicious about the golden red glow that radiated from Xiao Wu and asked her about it. But Xiao Wu wouldn't say anything. Having no other solutions, the referee could only pass the judgment to the judging committee.

By now, Emperor Xue Ye and the other two had already made their decision. From their perspective, it was perfectly normal for Xiao Wu to not say anything. After all, who would want to admit that they own a spirit bone? The victory for this match was unquestionably awarded to Shrek Academy. Xiao Wu scored two consecutive victories.

The competition continued and making Shrek Academy not know whether to laugh or cry was that the later students sent out by Balak Academy were obviously unable to be compared to the first two. Xiao Wu successively defeated another three people before leaving the stage due to exhaustion of spirit power.

The few Balak Academy students who later competed did not include any Spirit Ancestor above the fortieth rank.

Xiao Wu's perfect performance undoubtedly overshadowed every person who appeared in the previous two matches. Her five consecutive wins also made her rank the highest in terms of individual performance.

Xiao Wu left the stage and was replaced by Tang San. Just as Balak Academy was about to feel relieved by Xiao Wu leaving the stage, they were once again frozen as Tang San released his spirit.

Yellow, yellow, purple and black. Four spirit rings appeared at the same time. Despite being not conspicuous, the black spirit ring's

deep glow made the last two members of Balak Academy completely lose their fighting spirit.

Tang San did not even have to take any action and Balak Academy automatically admitted defeat. After all, the competition has only begun and the earlier conflict raised the tension between the two academies. The teacher from Balak Academy did not wish to have insufficient members in the matches tomorrow.

Shrek Academy also settled their match by sending only two members but from the way the matches played out, their performance was a cut better than Blazing Academy. Because of the that, Huo Wu sharpened her gaze at Tang San.

After eating two recovery sausages, Xiao Wu's spirit power gradually recovered, she practically could not stop herself from pulling Tang San who returned to one side and asked:

“Ge, what was with that glow from my body earlier? Did you know about it?”

If Tang San did not know, why would he warn her?

Tang San faintly smiled and nodded while whispering in her ears what he concluded earlier. Xiao Wu, upon realization, reach out her hands and touched the Yearning Heartbroken Red that was always placed at her chest, indeed, the warm flow earlier had flowed into her body from this position.

The first round of promotional matches ended perfectly for Shrek Academy, only Xiao Wu revealed her true strength while completely settling the match.

Excluding the Four Element Academies, the other academies would at the most only know that Shrek Academy had a monster with a ten-thousand year spirit ring.

In the later matches, the other three academies from Heaven Dou City also achieved victory. The result of five academies from Heaven Dou City being victorious made Emperor Xue Ye very satisfied. He immediately announced that all academies that were victorious would be awarded with one thousand gold spirit coins while

academies that lost were still awarded with five hundred golden spirit coins.

When the first day of matches were over, the dean from each academy went up on stage to draw lots, Shrek Academy's luck was not very good. For their match on the second day, the opponent they drew was Blazing Academy which performed very well in the first match.

Although it was a round robin system where every academy would eventually fight each other, the fact that they would face Blazing Academy this early created ripples in the minds of members from both academies.

Returning to their camp, Xiao Wu herself returned to her room to rest as there was still a match tomorrow. She had expended quite a lot of spirit power today and had to recover as quickly as possible. Jiang Zhu accompanied her as her spirit could increase Xiao Wu's recovery rate.

Grandmaster gathered the members of Shrek Academy and asked straight to the point:

"Your opponent tomorrow is Blazing Academy, in your opinion, what kind of line up should you be battling them with?"

As the captain, Dai Mubai was the first to reply:

"Grandmaster, although Blazing Academy's strength is abnormal, they are actually one of the weakest among the Four Elemental Academies. Only the Huo Wushuang and Huo Wu siblings are stronger, the other members will find it difficult to threaten us. Given the situation in today's matches, at least one of the Huo Wu Shuang and Huo Wu siblings would go first to get as many victories as possible. The rest of the members will then aim to deplete our spirit power. Why not let me go first tomorrow and little San cover the rear. This will ensure our victory."

Grandmaster said:

"Mubai isn't wrong. However, there is something I should remind you all. The qualifiers were the qualifiers after all, even now in the

promotion matches, each team might still not be using their full strength. It's not only us who are hiding our true strength, others will also use the same plan. The Shrek Seven Devils contain two support spirit masters, the others' strength are relatively balanced. Tang San and Mubai are slightly ahead. In this competition, you are not only here to win, the more important thing is to train. Train your strength and mentality. What you can think of, your opponents will naturally also be able to. Today, what I want to teach you all is to surprise your opponents. Revealing a hand that defies common sense will make it easier to break your opponent's tempo. Therefore, for tomorrow's battle, little San will go first, followed by Ma Hong Jun, Zhu Zhuqing, Xiao Wu and Mubai."

Similar to today's match against Balak Academy when Grandmaster announced three names, he had only announced five names. Evidently, this was the line up that he believed was sufficient to achieve victory.

Among the five, only Ma Hong Jun has not appeared on stage before, Grandmaster had his purpose for sending him out now this time. Ma Hong Jun hadn't been sent out before since the mission he was given by Grandmaster was to train.

Letting him take part in real battles now was in order to let him fight against opponents from other academies and find the tempo of the competition now rather than during the finals.

As for Oscar and Ning Rongrong, both were support type spirit masters, they would be fine as long as they were compatible with their teammates. They would stay hidden. Promotion matches were still not for them to participate in.

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A quiet night.

The tempo of the promotion matches was faster than the qualifiers, without common spectators, only the competition results were desired. Having removed the complicated processes and the noisy audience, it allowed spirit Masters to bring out their true strength more easily.

Part 2

Shrek Academy versus Blazing Academy was the fifth match, but before the match had even started, Tang San could already feel the burning hot gaze aimed directly at him from not far away.

Tang San didn't look at Huo Wu, as he didn't want to display any aggression. He only quietly watched the matches in the ring, especially Godwind Academy and Thunderclap Academy. They hadn't encountered these academies before, and being about to fight them in the ranking competition, he had to observe them carefully.

Through observation, Tang San discovered that, apart from the four elemental academies, there were still another two academies who were also powerful. One was called Syras Academy, and one was called Botanic Academy.

Syras Academy was still well, with strength apparently not much different from the four elemental academies, with three students over fortieth rank. But Tang San was unable to make sense of that Botanic Academy. All the competing members of this academy had plant spirits, and moreover they were all somewhat strange plants. From the start of the competition until now, only three of their members had appeared in the ring.

Of course, this was also because they hadn't encountered any strong opponents. Even though the students that had appeared were all thirty something ranked, Tang San still saw that this Botanic Academy's members were all unexpectedly control system Spirit Masters. Under such circumstances, they wouldn't be at a disadvantage even against fortieth ranked opponents. Relying on three thirty something ranked Spirit Elders, this academy had already obtained a record of two successive victories.

Botanic Academy's display was very low key and they didn't use any dazzling spirit abilities, but the more so they did, the more complex Tang San felt they were.

At last it was time for Shrek Academy and Blazing Academy to go up.

When Tang San was the first to walk into the ring from Shrek Academy, the students on Blazing Academy's side all immediately revealed stunned expressions.

The first to go up from Blazing Academy was Huo Wushuang, and just like Dai Mubai had estimated, the last to go up was Huo Wu.

Seeing Tang San was the first to walk into the competition grounds, Huo Wu shot up from her seat, her ample chest heaving constantly, light flashing in her eyes. If the competition rules didn't prohibit changing the order once submitted, she would definitely be the first to go on up.

'Why? Why are you first?' Huo Wu screamed in her heart.

In the month since the end of the qualifiers, she had cultivated as if torturing herself. And she had also made some breakthrough, not only did her spirit power go up one rank, but her spirit ability application and all round capabilities had also improved. And all this, was to take revenge on Tang San.

But right now Tang San was the first Shrek Academy member to walk out. Even if he was even stronger, Huo Wu still wouldn't believe he could last until the fight with her. Could it be her opportunity for revenge would disappear? She was unwilling.

But with the competition rules in place, she was left helpless. She couldn't have her big brother and all the others give up on the match.

After all, she also had to consider the whole team.

Huo Wushuang stood confronting Tang San, his facial expression very heavy. Originally he had thought that after the five successive victories yesterday, Xiao Wu would still be the first to go up, and he had prepared accordingly.

But the one to appear in front of him was the one who had given him the deepest impression, Tang San. This already formed a small crack in Huo Wushuang's resolve.

He knew that with Tang San's spirit control capability and fire immunity, it would be very difficult for him to obtain the desired

outcome. Fire immunity was really a far too great restriction on his strength.

Tang San's expression was still calm, that was true no matter what opponent he confronted. Along with the referee announcing the start of the match, he made an inviting gesture to Huo Wushuang.

The two completed their spirit release in practically the same moment. Tang San raised his right hand in front of him, and five cun^[3] of Blue Silver Grass grew in his palm, flickering softly. If it wasn't for those four dazzling spirit rings being a clear manifestation of his strength, nobody would have believed that this no more than five cun Blue Silver Grass would actually have such astonishing strength.

Not only Blazing Academy, but those students from the kingdom and duchy academies, as long as they weren't going to participate in a match, practically all their gazes fell on this fight between Huo Wushuang and Tang San.

One was from a traditionally powerful team, one had a ten thousand year fourth spirit ring, this fight was destined to be marvellous. At the same time, these academies all wanted to see just how powerful Tang San actually was.

Scales appearing on his skin, blazing flame shot up instantly, then was extinguished in another eyeblink. Huo Wushuang was covered in a layer of deep red, a short horn protruding from his forehead, about three cun^[4] long. That was his spirit, Single Horned Fire Tyrant Dragon.

Watching the process of Huo Wushuang releasing his spirit, Tang San's expression couldn't help turning serious. The release of flame was normal, but its later restraint was clearly different from the team battles last time. By Huo Wushuang's calm and composed appearance, he had clearly thought of a way to deal with him.

Different from ordinary confrontations between power attack system Spirit Masters and control system Spirit Masters. this time it was Tang San who charged first.

Tang San's feet shifted, and he seemed to float out. His movements

didn't seem fast at all, but with that illusory pace, he approached Huo Wushuang in only a few eyeblinks.

A control system Spirit Master focusing on assault? Nobody could imagine it.

Huo Wushuang's first spirit ring already brightened in a flash, that layer of deep red scales covering his body instantly turning sparkling and translucent, covering him like a layer of armor. But his body didn't move, only his eyes rigidly watched Tang San's rapid approach.

What Huo Wushuang hadn't expected was that the Blue Silver Grass Binding he had prepared for didn't hit him, but Tang San still rushed closer, without using any spirit abilities.

Huo Wushuang was unable to hold back, both hands fiercely meeting in front of his chest. Deep red light rushed out between his palms, instantly condensing into a palm-sized sphere.

There still wasn't any sign of flame, so much that there wasn't even a trace of heat, but just as his gaze locked on Tang San, the deep red ball of light shot out, flying straight for Tang San.

Just as the two sides were about to clash, Tang San's foot suddenly slid, dodging the strike of the red sphere of light at the edge of danger. By now, he was already less than five meters from Huo Wushuang.

Clearly, Huo Wushuang's attack wouldn't be that easy to dodge. Even though he had avoided the first attack, that ball of light immediately changed direction, directly chasing after Tang San.

A faint smile at the corners of his mouth, the Blue Silver Grass in the palm of Tang San's right hand abruptly surged out. Only one strand, thick as a baby's arm, grew to three meters long in the blink of an eye. It didn't bind, but rather directly whipped out at Huo Wushuang. At the same time, a cluster of Blue Silver Grass rose behind Tang San's back, weaving together into a great net in the air, rigidly blocking the ball of light.

The next moment, astonished expressions appeared on both sides'

faces.

The deep red ball of light vanished with a violently explosive sound, and the net covering it was also subsequently torn to pieces. But the Blue Silver Grass Tang San swung also closed in on Huo Wushuang.

Huo Wushuang finally moved. He didn't pay any attention to the Blue Silver Grass striking at his body, but rather went out to meet Tang San.

The Blue Silver Grass accurately lashed Huo Wushuang's shoulder, but with an explosive blast, that strand of Blue Silver Grass was unexpectedly directly destroyed. At the same time, Huo Wushuang and Tang San were already within reach of each other.

With Tang San's plentiful combat experience, he was aware of where the problem lay in a split second.

Indeed, his Blue Silver Grass was really immune to ice and fire, but it wasn't immune to energy attacks. Blazing Academy's method to deal with him was very simple. Restraining their fire attribute attacks, and replacing them with another kind of attack method.

Huo Wushuang didn't just have blazing heat, but also explosions.

Huo Wushuang compressed his fire attribute spirit power as far as possible, afterwards releasing it the moment both sides came into contact, creating an explosive force.

Like this, even though the fire attribute didn't have any effect, that explosive force was still dreadful.

Blazing Academy really deserved their reputation as one of the five great elemental academies. Whether it was the teachers or the outstanding students, finding a way to deal with him in such a short period of time really wasn't average.

'But, can this defeat me?' The smile at the corners of Tang San's mouth still hadn't disappeared. 'You've improved, then can't I also?'

Confronted with Huo Wushuang's strike, Tang San knew that as long as he came into contact with the opponent's body, the successive

explosions from that deep red scale armor would injure him seriously. Spirit power condensed to this degree wasn't something his Blue Silver Grass could withstand right now.

After all, they were both forty second ranked Spirit Masters, but from the start of the battle until now Huo Wushuang had invested far more spirit power than Tang San. In coordination with that brimming with masculine aura Single Horned Tyrant Dragon Spirit, it really gave a feeling of sweeping everything before it.

Using explosions to counter him was no doubt the most proper choice, but unfortunately, Tang San's control had already reached a whole new level in this short month.

Confronted with Huo Wushuang's frontal attack, Tang San didn't retreat, but rather still charged ahead. The moment the two were about to collide, Huo Wushuang raised both fists simultaneously, blasting the empty air on either side of Tang San, as much as possible leaving him without anywhere to dodge.

He believed that as long as he and Tang San got close enough, he would immediately regain the advantage. How could Blue Silver Grass compare to the Single Horned Tyrant Dragon?

Part 3

But at this instant, Tang San's dash suddenly came to a rigid halt. Equally raising both his hands, and moreover without releasing any Blue Silver Grass, both his palms met Huo Wushuang's fists. With a slight shake of his wrists, both his arms moved in a splendid arc.

Huo Wushuang immediately felt something amiss, as if his strength met a soft and flexible screen, the blasting power his fists were brimming with lacked any sensation of collision. Even more shockingly, after his scaled met with Tang San's force they didn't cause any explosions, but were rather pulled aside as if someone used their hands to pull him. Following the momentum of his fists, Huo Wushuang immediately stumbled.

Tang San had disappeared just the instant Huo Wushuang lost his

balance.

The next moment, Huo Wushuang only felt a great force rush out behind him, and before he had time to react, his whole body had already been sent flying. His body issued a series of explosive sounds in midair, the result of him exploding the fire element contained in his scale armor.

Unfortunately, his reaction was a beat too slow. Even though the explosive force was powerful, in midair it was basically unable to affect Tang San.

This was the effect born of combining Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step with Controlling Crane Catching Dragon.

In the days since, Tang San had thought of a great many things. He suddenly found that ever since gaining spirit abilities, he seemed to have forgotten a lot of extremely powerful capabilities. Indeed, spirit abilities were really useful, and moreover straightforward and simple. But in fact, how could his Tang Sect secret lore come out short in a comparison?

As this world understood things, the Tang Sect lore he had cultivated from Mysterious Heaven Treasure Record were also each a kind of ability! Purple Demon Eye was one. Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step, Controlling Crane Catching Dragon, Mysterious Jade Hand, weren't they all? Even if the hidden weapons Tang Sect knew best couldn't be used, couldn't he still use these?

If the entire previous process could be slowed down, the whole course of Tang San's actions could be seen clearly. Using Controlling Crane Catching Dragon to divert the opponent's attack, Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step to dodge behind Huo Wushuang, Mysterious Jade Hand pushing with Controlling Crane Catching Dragon.

Even though he had been hit by the explosive force, with the durability of Mysterious Jade Hand, this basically wouldn't cause any injury, and Huo Wushuang's body had already been swiftly pushed away.

Seven strands of Blue Silver Grass, glittering with mauve light in the sunshine, fell from the sky like seven long rainbows.

Right now Huo Wushuang had his back completely exposed to Tang San. He only felt a pressure in the sky, but couldn't see just what attack it was. And the moment Tang San's Blue Silver Grass chose to attack was just when the energy in his scales had just burst out, and his spirit power was still condensing, the awkward moment when he couldn't use his next spirit ability.

Control, this was still control, only that what was controlled were the details and precision. The details decided the outcome, and at this moment, Tang San used this instant to maximize his advantage.

Blue Silver Grass struck Huo Wushuang's open back without the least suspense, seven strands of Blue Silver Grass all whipped the same place. The first one already knocked Huo Wushuang from the air to the ground. From the second and onward, they caused intolerable pain to instantly spread through Huo Wushuang's whole body. Bringing a paralysing and twitching sensation, all he could do was to swiftly roll over and leap up. But his back was already badly mangled.

Don't forget that Blue Silver Grass was seriously toxic, with the poison of the Man Faced Demon Spider as well as the thorns of the Ghost Vine. Having lost his protective scales, right now Huo Wushuang wasn't only infected by the poison, but the violent pain moreover affected his spirit power aggregation and mental focus.

Tang San's expression was still serene, but he wouldn't give his opponent any chance to recover his strength. Just as Huo Wushuang shot up and prepared to confront Tang San, something tightened about his feet. Without any warning, a strand of the most common Blue Silver Grass twisted around his ankles, tripping him over once again.

In order to defend and counterattack, Huo Wushuang had just now condensed practically all his spirit power in his upper body. Once again on the ground, he needed time in order to use explosive force to free his bound feet.

But, his body was already sent tumbling by the impetus of that Blue Silver Grass.

This time, Huo Wushuang was thrown into the distance, and Tang San on the ground followed like an illusion. Twelve strands of Blue Silver Grass shot out with a swing of his right arm, still attacking the same spot.

Blasting sounds rang out practically uninterrupted, blast after blast bursting out in the air. This time, Huo Wushuang already had a defense, but within explosion after explosion, the twelve strands of Blue Silver Grass successively smashed it. The pain of those bone piercing lashes as well as the shock of his own fire element explosions, left Huo Wushuang in such pain he wished he was dead, directly resisting a mouthful of blood reflux from spraying out in the air.

Finally blocking the last strand of Blue Silver Grass, Huo Wushuang staked all his strength on controlling his feet to land, preventing being humiliated once again. At the same time he also impatiently erupted a series of attacks in midair, for fear that he would once again be bound by that ghost serpent like Blue Silver Grass.

“You’ve lost.”

Tang San’s attack didn’t reappear, what reached him was only that calm voice.

Huo Wushuang now returned to his senses, staring, he couldn’t keep his face from going deathly pale. He now discovered that he was already outside of the ring, having fallen just one meter out of bounds.

Now he understood the reason why Tang San lashed out with twelve strands of Blue Silver Grass after he had been thrown. It wasn’t to attack him, but rather to exploit the attacks of the Blue Silver Grass as well as the impulses of his own explosions to increase the distance he flew.

Out of bounds, no matter the circumstances, meant defeat.

Huo Wushuang looked at Tang San in a daze. He couldn’t accept it,

and on the contrary he discovered that the feeling of defeat in his heart was so powerful.

Confronting Tang San he hadn't faced control, but rather his rigid offense. A control system Spirit Master's precision, combined with the speed and strength of the agility attack system and power attack system.

From the first moment of contact until the end, he hadn't even been able to stall for enough energy to launch his more powerful spirit abilities. But what Tang San used was at most only his first spirit ability, to the extent that it wasn't even the whole first spirit ability.

How much spirit power could he have consumed just by waving a few strands of Blue Silver Grass?

Hidden weapons didn't only include throwing types, but also mechanical types and the rare rope types. Tang San had just fully used the rope type methods on his own Blue Silver Grass.

He had used it as early as the human meteor hammer before, but he had only truly recognized the importance of fusing his Tang Sect lore with his spirit abilities in his days of painful cultivation and while truly combining the two together.

A forty second ranker versus a forty second ranker, and the winner's spirit power consumption could practically be neglected. This was the result Tang San had obtained after bitter cultivation. He had proved his strength in real combat, making the Huo Wushuang who had originally thought he could make a fight of it lose before he could even use his full strength. So much that he couldn't even use up some of Tang San's spirit power.

"You didn't have any confidence when you faced me. If a Spirit Master doesn't have confidence, how can he win?"

Tang San's words reached Huo Wushuang's ears. When he looked at Tang San's serene eyes, Huo Wushuang suddenly found that this clearly younger than him youth seemed to have become his teacher.

By now Huo Wu had run over, grabbing Huo Wushuang's arm, asking

with a deeply concerned face:

“Ge, are you alright?”

Huo Wushuang shook his head,

“I’m alright. I lost, lost by heart and word.”

Huo Wu sharply raised her head, both her eyes seeming to shoot flames, fiercely burning at Tang San.

Tang San’s gaze was still undisturbed. He looked at Huo Wu without any particular mood.

The first fight ended like this. Even though the scene wasn’t as chaotic as the qualifiers, and wasn’t any applause or cheers, what Tang San revealed captured everyone present. Even Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School master Ning Fengzhi discovered that this child became more and more impenetrable. At such a young age, he already had some of the demeanor of a great family.

Glancing at platinum bishop Salas next to him out of the corner of his eye, Ning Fengzhi was somewhat astonished to discover that Salas’ face was still calm, without any fluctuation to his mood because of Tang San’s display, as if he was only looking at the most common competition.

The next matches seemed even easier for Tang San. He continuously calm and unhurried successively fought five Blazing Academy team members. Among them the twin brothers Huo Wun and Huo Yu had broken through from thirty ninth rank to fortieth rank.

But nobody could make Tang San release his third spirit ability.

Blazing Academy already possessed four spirit masters over fortieth rank, but six of them still couldn’t stop Tang San’s advance. His spirit power was still plentiful, and there wasn’t even a trace of exhaustion on his face.

It was under such circumstances that Blazing Academy’s final team member, vice captain Huo Wu, walked gravely into the ring.

One defeating six. Since the start of the ranking competition, this

was the most outstanding score to appear. Moreover the six defeated people were still from the traditionally powerful and well known Blazing Academy, these were circumstances nobody could have imagined before the start of the match, but this was what really had happened.

Notes

1. 3寸 = 10 cm
2. 1尺 = $\frac{1}{3}$ m
3. 5寸 = 17 cm
4. 3寸 = 10 cm

112 – Tang San VS Huo Wu

Part 1

Watching the cold faced Huo Wu walk into the ring, Tang San drew a deep breath. Even though he didn't seem any different from the start of the first fight, in fact, right now he was already extremely tired.

His spirit power had been conserved as far as possible, but in the previous six matches, he had after all still faced three fortieth ranked opponents. Besides Huo Wushuang, Huo Yun and Huo Yu's Fire Crane Spirits gave him no small trouble, especially their strongest spirit abilities made Tang San spend considerable spirit power in order to dodge and escape their attacks.

Even more, to save on his spirit power he had to use the most precise degree of control possible with each ability, the requirements for this were enormous.

Consequently, even though Tang San had only consumed forty percent or so of his spirit power, his mental strength had already been exhausted by seventy percent. He was an arrow at the end of its flight.

Right now the spectators, whether the imperial household knights or the other academy Spirit Masters, all only wanted to see one thing: whether Tang San could defeat the whole Blazing Academy with his own strength, completing a heroic feat of one beating seven.

Attentively watching Tang San, Huo Wu now instead became calm. She knew that this match was not only a matter between her and Tang San, but also related to the reputation of Blazing Academy.

If she lost, letting the opponent complete one against seven, then Blazing Academy would never be able to raise their heads among the five elemental academies. Therefore, she couldn't lose no matter what. She couldn't lose.

It was precisely this conviction in victory that made Huo Wu calm down. This year she still wasn't twenty. In Blazing Academy she was the youngest genius in history. This period of painstaking training let her spirit power advance a level, reaching the forty fourth rank. She believed that she should be above this youth in front of her, whether in spirit or spirit power.

But how, how was the entire Blazing Academy unable to defeat him alone? Was it because he was a control system Spirit Master? Because of his fire immunity? No, it definitely wasn't just this.

Tang San calmly watched Huo Wu standing thirty meters away from him. He was astonished to discover that Huo Wu's aura seemed to have undergone a bizarre change. He and Huo Wu didn't have any interaction, but every time he had seen her it seemed as if she distributed an incendiary aura. In some respects, it was extremely similar to Liu Erlong.

But now that she had calmed down, Huo Wu was like a different person. Her originally extremely slender figure seemed even more alluring as her skin reflected a red light, as if it could ignite the hearts of all men.

With a shake of her body, a faint orange shadow gradually appeared behind Huo Wu. It was identical to her, a vague flame shadow with an illusory feeling. But this was her spirit, Fire Shadow.

The fire element shadow was an extremely peculiar spirit, but able to display the fire element to its greatest degree.

It was clearly already impossible for Blazing Academy to win in the ranking competition today, after all, Shrek Academy still had another six people. However, Huo Wu was already rigidly set on winning this fight, no matter what.

The match began.

Tang San had always wondered what method Huo Wu would use to attack, and the moment the referee declared the start, she gave him the answer: Running.

Huo Wu's slender and powerful legs moved swiftly, dashing directly

at Tang San.

Even though her speed couldn't compare to that of an agility attack system Spirit Master, by the forty fourth rank, the added attributes from spirit rings and the effect of their own spirit power made a Spirit Master far superior to ordinary people. This all out charge had astonishing speed, and the distance between the two quickly shrank.

A strand of Blue Silver Grass surged out, sweeping horizontally. Its target was Huo Wu's slender and powerful waist.

It was a probing attack. Tang San's energy was greatly consumed by now, but sending out a few tests was better than idly waiting for opportunities.

He had chosen a strategy to guard and counterattack. With the advantage of fire immunity, if Huo Wu wanted her abilities to have any effect on him she could only use explosions like Huo Wushuang did.

Therefore, Tang San wasn't very anxious.

If Huo Wu wanted to use her fourth spirit ability, the period for accumulating strength was enough for him to react.

Confronted with the sweeping Blue Silver Grass, Huo Wu not only didn't dodge, but on the contrary sped up somewhat. The thirty meter distance between the two shortened to ten meters in the blink of an eye.

Huo Wu's eyes brightened, both eyes flashing brightly, at the same time her third spirit ring also shone. A purple light halo filled the air, and she increased her speed a bit more.

Suddenly, light flashed in Tang San's mind, and he immediately understood Huo Wu's plan of attack. Blue Silver Grass swept unchangingly, and he swiftly started to move. He neither advanced nor retreated, but rather moved sideways, swiftly dashing out horizontally.

Huo Wu had apparently already anticipated Tang San's reaction, and her original straight dash angled sideways, but still pressing in on

Tang San.

The instant Blue Silver Grass was about to land on her, Huo Wu's third spirit ability, Defying Flame Ring, launched.

A dazzling orange ring of light released in a flash. This spirit ability without any offensive power washed away the nearby Blue Silver Grass in an instant. The the spirit ability range reached and astonishing sixty meters, and right now Tang San was less than ten meters away.

The moment the thirty meter radius Defying Flame Ring removed the Blue Silver Grass, it also sent Tang San far away.

The whole ring had a diameter of a hundred meters, and Huo Wu's Defying Flame Ring had a sixty meter diameter. It could be said to cover a substantial part of the ring. Pushed by the Defying Flame Ring, Tang San practically instantly reached the edge of the ring.

Leaving the ring meant defeat. Tang San had exploited this rule in the first fight against Huo Wushuang.

But the most frightening aspect of Huo Wu's Defying Flame Ring was that it ignored any abilities and defense, anything within its range could be temporarily banished.

Of course, the opponent's attack power couldn't surpass her spirit power by more than ten ranks.

Huo Wu didn't pause, just when Tang San was forced to the edge of the ring, another Defying Flame Ring flashed.

Tang San sighed inwardly. This girl might seem to have a fiery temper, but she was actually extremely shrewd. Control system Spirit Masters really weren't ordinary. By exploiting the Defying Flame Ring, she had put him in trouble in an instant.

Right now, even if it was his fourth spirit ability, at most it could only temporarily block Huo Wu's advance, but couldn't stop the Defying Flame Ring from launching. Huo Wu's use of this originally defensive ability had doubtless passed long consideration.

The Defying Flame Ring of course wasn't absolute, otherwise, there would be no need to hold this ranking competition, Huo Wu could just rely on this ability to sweep away all opponents. The restriction of the Defying Flame Ring lay in altitude. The range of its effect was sixty meters in diameter, and three meters in height.

In other words, three meters in the air was out of the Defying Flame Ring's effect. Unless Huo Wu directly aimed the Defying Flame Ring into the air.

Under these circumstances, no matter how wonderful Tang San's Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step was, he was still unable to dodge the Defying Flame Ring's attack. Therefore, he could only fly into the air. Watching Huo Wu's second Defying Flame Ring about to take effect, Tang San leapt up, swiftly rising above the Defying Flame Ring.

Seeing this, Huo Wu's face revealed a sneer. Even though she had wasted a lot of spirit power on these two Defying Flame Rings, her goal of forcing Tang San into the air was still reached.

A strange scene appeared. Huo Wu's fourth spirit ring flashed the same moment Tang San leapt up, and the Fire Shadow behind her also instantly turned incandescent white.

"Ring Merging^[9]?"

Outside the ring, spectating the match Grandmaster abruptly cried out.

Ring Merging wasn't any kind of technique, but rather an innate ability. Only some extremely peculiar Spirit Masters could possess this kind of ability.

It used the simultaneous release of the spirit power of several spirit ring abilities at once, and could also be called an instant substantial spirit power release, making use of one spirit ability.

The greatest benefit of Ring Merging was burst power. Simply put, if a pool only had one exit, then the water could also only flow out of this one exit. Even though it would drain out eventually, it still couldn't be compared to the speed of simultaneously flowing out of four

exits.

Grandmaster had suspected Huo Wu possessed this ability since the qualifiers last time, only that time she still had the support of the auxiliary system Spirit Masters, and Grandmaster didn't dare say for sure. But right now it was completely obvious, what she used was Ring Merging.

Under these circumstances her spirit power output would peak, right now the might of the spirit ability she used would also doubtless double.

The incandescence solidified in her palm. What Huo Wu released this time wasn't blazing heat, but rather a condensed explosion.

An only egg-sized ball of white light floated out, flying straight for Tang San in the air. After releasing this white ball of light, Huo Wu's complexion instantly turned deathly pale.

Different from Huo Wushuang's attack, the instant the white ball of light had just left Huo Wushuang's hands, Tang San felt his body suddenly stall, as if that not very large ball of light contained a boundless gravitational force. He was unable to dodge in the air, and watching that little ball of white light flying towards him, all he could do right now was to stiffly block it.

There were still a great many ways to block, and even though he was in a disadvantageous position, Tang San still hadn't given up. Raising his right hand, his third spirit ability emerged for the first time today.

Part 2

A green ball of light shot out of Tang San's palm, instantly expanding. Under his meticulous control, the range this spider web covered was a lot smaller, but that also made it a lot thicker. Even something like that white light ball couldn't overcome it.

White and green, two lights flowed together in midair. The moment the two came into contact, Tang San's face changed.

With a tearing sound, the white ball of light unexpectedly straight through that durable Spider Web Restraint. It was unexpectedly rotating at high speed, and that perfectly round surface was moreover actually brimming with a cutting force.

A strand of Blue Silver Grass whipped out immediately afterward, but just like that Spider Web Restraint it was completely unable to hold back that white ball of light. When Tang San's Blue Silver Grass lashed it, it was unable to change its direction. Only the Blue Silver Grass itself broke.

After coming into contact with it twice, if Tang San still didn't have a grasp on the power of this white ball of light, then he wouldn't deserve being Grandmaster's disciple. He instantly understood that the spirit power contained in this white ball of light should be everything Huo Wu still had after releasing her third spirit ability twice, and it was furthermore compressed. The ball was completely locked on him under her mental control. In his current condition, unless he had an ability to completely condense all his spirit power like her, he was unable to block it.

Of course, Tang San overlooked one thing. This white ball of light was not only Huo Wu's entire output, but also her entire output after using Ring Merging. Its power surpassed even the total sum of her whole spirit power.

In order to defeat Tang San, she had already given up on the rest of the match. Her goal was only to beat this youth in front of her.

The moment that white ball of light was about to strike Tang San, Tang San suddenly disappeared.

That disappearance naturally wasn't without reason. Blue Silver Grass was ineffective against the white ball of light, but that didn't mean it was useless.

Two strands of Blue Silver Grass struck the ground forcefully, sending Tang San higher into the air using the opposite force. When that white ball of light chased after him from below and almost caught up, Blue Silver Grass shot out of Tang San's hand, directly twisting around Huo Wu's waist.

Right now, Huo Wu had already made use of her entire spirit power, basically without the strength to resist. She only felt her waist tighten, and the next moment, Tang San had already magnified in front of her.

Indeed, Tang San's target was Huo Wu, using her body weight to change his direction in the air, directly dashing down at Huo Wu.

Under effect of the tension, his movement through the air was naturally even faster. The two weren't far apart, and collided after practically an instant.

Huo Wu subconsciously raised her arms to push off Tang San, but Tang San only spread his hands, neutralizing her palms. The instant the two of them collided, Tang San had already used a strand of Blue Silver Grass to bind the two of them tightly together.

Huo Wu only felt a great rotating force as Tang San turned around. Huo Wu involuntarily blocked in front of him, just like a shield. And that white ball of light hurriedly chased after with a humming sound.

Emptiness. Instantly, in Huo Wu's mind was only emptiness. After that white ball of light had locked on Tang San, it had already become an attack out of her control. But at this moment, she had become Tang San's shield.

She hadn't expected this battle to reach this kind of conclusion. She knew she had already lost. But, she really was unwilling. Unwilling.....

Would she die? Huo Wu was only too clear on the power of her own attack. She knew that in her present condition, it was basically impossible to block that attack. She would only end up like Tang San's Blue Silver Grass, torn apart.

'If I die I die, but even if I die I'll still pull you down to hell with me.' Huo Wu suddenly spread her arms, tightly embracing Tang San, and moreover surrendering her final trace of spirit power defense. She believed that even after that white ball of light had pierced her body, it would still cause Tang San serious injuries.

As she tightly held Tang San, the rancor in her heart surged. She

even bit down on the muscles at Tang San's shoulder. This bite was extremely fierce, and the instant her teeth clamped down, she felt tepid liquid flow into her mouth.

But at this moment, Tang San's voice suddenly sighed next to her ear,

"Is it necessary?"

Their bodies seemed to rotate, and her tightly clamped hands suddenly felt something rush out of Tang San's back. No longer able to hold on, she involuntarily let go. But there was still Blue Silver Grass' Binding between them, and they were still pressed close together.

Alas, Tang San didn't have any time right now, and he also wasn't in the mood to feel that flexible and scorching hot delicate body.

"Sister——"

Huo Wushuang cried out in alarm, as did each member of Blazing Academy. But there wasn't enough time for them to rush into the ring.

The Shrek Academy side was equally alarmed, both sides dashing into the ring practically simultaneously.

But what they saw was still Tang San suddenly rotating once again, not only didn't he try to use Huo Wu as a shield again, but he instead turned himself into a shield for Huo Wu.

When Tang San bound him and Huo Wu together and turned her into a shield, he only had one goal, to force Huo Wu to give up on her attack. How could he have known that even Huo Wu herself was already unable to control it.

Seeing Huo Wu's rancorous embrace, as well as the gaze in her eyes that seemed to view death as a return home, Tang San was shocked to discover that this girl was unexpectedly ready to die to drag him along with her.

Tang San didn't have any hostility towards Huo Wu, and it seemed to

him that Huo Wu was nothing more than an aggressively competitive girl.

She was, after all, a girl, and he was a man. How could he truly be so coarse as to ruin a flower? In these circumstances, this was the only choice Tang San could think of.

Therefore, the instant the white ball of light was on the verge of arriving, he turned around while pasted to Huo Wu, using his back to confront the bombardment of the compressed energy ball.

Eight Spider Lances shot out, just enough to break open Huo Wu's arms, leaving that attack completely for Tang San to withstand.

He didn't let Eight Spider Lances extend completely, but only half a chi^[2]. That ball of white light blossomed completely in the next moment, and it was basically impossible for anyone to pay attention to that momentary change on Tang San's back.

The number of people with blank minds turned from one into two. Tang San only felt his body lighten, everything around him spinning. There was no pain, only a momentary numbness, and his entire body became paralysed. Even though he focused his entire Mysterious Heaven Skill on his back, he still became numb.

Huo Wu also felt herself flying, the violent shock making her briefly dizzy, and she practically unconsciously tightened her grip on Tang San.

The numbness changed into omnipresent pain in practically an instant. Tang San's mind recovered a bit, and when they were about to hit the ground, he turned his body. Since he was acting the hero, he might as well do it to the end.

The two struck the ground with a rumbling sound. Tang San below, Huo Wu on top. The instant of gravitational force almost made Tang San lose consciousness.

The reason he used his back to hit the ground was also in order to hide Eight Spider Lances. He clearly felt Eight Spider Lances tremble, and he could even hear some minute cracking sounds behind him. But there wasn't any pain on his back.

Coughing up a mouthful of blood, Tang San was still a bit lower than Huo Wu, and this mouthful of blood sprayed onto her chest. For the first time he learned the feeling of five organs burning, the blood and qi within his body constantly roiling, as if it was on fire.

Mysterious Heaven Skill really was worthy of being called a first class internal skill of the profound orthodox sects. It protected Tang San's body as far as possible in the instant of the explosion, and further adding the protection of Eight Spider Lances, even though Tang San was seriously injured, it wasn't life threatening.

This was the result of Tang San's careful calculations. When he turned Huo Wu, he had already estimated that with his defense, there was no way he would die.

The Binding Blue Silver Grass between the two had already been torn apart by the explosive force, but Huo Wu's hands still tightly clutched Tang San's arms. Her whole body trembled, but whether it was because of fury or something else was unknown.

The team members from both sides were already rushing over. Tang San opened his eyes and looked at the very close Huo Wu with a slight smile. Even though his face was deathly pale, that still didn't affect his unperturbed temper.

"Still haven't hugged enough? You won."

Huo Wu looked at Tang San, her eyes refocusing. Right now she discovered that her hands holding onto Tang San's arms were already dyed red with blood.

That of course wasn't her blood. Before, she had clearly felt spirit power surge out of Tang San's body, using his not at all taller than her body to completely shelter her from harm. What she had endured was at most some shaking.

Won? Was she really the winner? A trace of bitterness blossomed at the corner's of Huo Wu's mouth. Right now her consciousness was still somewhat fuzzy, and even she herself didn't quite know what she thought in her heart.

"Little sister, are you alright?"

Huo Wushuang pulled his little sister upright, carefully looking her over.

“I’m alright.”

And right now, Xiao Wu, with tears streaming down her cheeks, pulled Tang San into her embrace. Jiang Zhu’s healing halos were rushing out without a thought to how much spirit power was wasted. Oscar’s big sausage was already in Tang San’s mouth.

Were it not for Tang San promptly warning off Ning Rongrong, perhaps she would have used her four boost abilities on Tang San.

Part 3

“Silly girl, don’t cry! Big brother is fine.”

Tang San was going to raise his hand to rub Xiao Wu’s head, but discovered his arm wouldn’t rise for some reason.

Actually, when he faced Huo Wu he didn’t have any intention of winning this fight. In what is called ‘leaving a way out’, he had already defeated six people, Shrek Academy would definitely be the final victors of this ranking match, so why would he need to exterminate them to the last? It might be pleasurable to defeat seven alone, but that would also entail branding both sides with hatred. He didn’t wish for that.

After all, he didn’t hold any malice towards Blazing Academy.

Therefore, Tang San originally only planned to waste as much of Huo Wu’s spirit power as he could, leaving the end of the match for the next person going up to handle. But who could have thought that Huo Wu would target him so fiercely, with this being the end result.

When Dai Mubai helped Tang San up, revealing his back, the Shrek Academy group drew a cold breath practically simultaneously.

The clothes on Tang San’s back were already in pieces, full of badly mangled flesh and blood, in some places even the bone beneath was visible. Even his arms were already dyed red with blood,

hanging limply by his sides.

What kind of pain was this? But Tang San's face still held an unperturbed smile, as if this pain was nothing to him. Only the sweat beading on his forehead told people that he was injured.

Huo Wu's white ball of light had even greater attack power than Tang San had imagined. If not for Eight Spider Lances, if not for his body being forged in the Ice and Fire Yin Yang Well, even if he didn't die this time, he would still at least have been seriously injured.

But even though his injuries were ghastly to look at, they were nothing more than some flesh wounds. His bones and internal organs hadn't suffered too much harm.

By now the referee was walking over, calling out for medical staff to treat Tang San while declaring Huo Wu the victor of this fight.

Before Shrek Academy's second team member appeared, Huo Wu had already declared that she conceded the next match. Whether her exhausted spirit power or the state of the heart, she no longer had neither the will nor ability to keep fighting.

Right now the Shrek Academy group couldn't spare a thought to hate Huo Wu, their only concern was Tang San's safety.

Tang San was carried out lying face down on a stretcher, this was the true end of this match. Even though Tang San hadn't made too great of a show in the last fight, his previous six fights had long ago conquered everyone.

Moreover, had he truly lost the last fight?

He could completely have used Huo Wu's body to shield himself from the attack. With his control strength, he would only have needed to infuse her body with some of his spirit power, letting that white ball of light detonate in Huo Wu. There wouldn't have been any danger to him, and it wouldn't even have been against the rules.

After all, that terrifying attack was used by Huo Wu, not Tang San.

"Will my ge really be alright?"

In the barracks, Xiao Wu looked with concern at the Heaven Dou Imperial court doctor.

The doctor was a forty something woman, and by appearances she should have been a beauty in her youth. She smiled calmly at Xiao Wu, saying:

“Little miss, this is already the seventeenth time you’ve asked me the same question. Don’t worry. Your big brother won’t have any major issues, only his skin and flesh was injured. His bones are intact and internal organs protected. Truly strange. The flexibility of his muscles is at least three times that of ordinary Spirit Masters, how did he train to become like this? Right now he’s only lost a bit of blood, he needs to rest a while. He will be able to move as usual in at most five days. However. It’s best if you don’t let him participate in any more matches in this ranking competition. Otherwise there’s a chance the wounds would be torn open.”

“Thank you, auntie doctor.”

The doctor smiled calmly, picking up her medical box:

“Alright, you take care of him properly, I’ll leave first.”

Seeing the doctor out, Xiao Wu’s expression finally relaxed somewhat. Right now Tang San was already deep asleep.

Watching his still deathly pale face, bursts of heartache like daggers in her heart attacked Xiao Wu. She would prefer she was the one injured rather than seeing Tang San wounded like this!

Grandmaster waved his hand to the Shrek Academy group in the room, saying:

“Alright, the rest of you all go rest. There’s still a match tomorrow. Let’s leave Xiao Wu to look after Tang San here.”

Everyone moved to quietly leave the room. As long as Tang San was alright, they were also at ease.

Inside the room, only Xiao Wu, Grandmaster and Tang San remained. Grandmaster looked at Tang San who lay on his stomach

in the bed, deep asleep, and said with a slight smile:

“Little San really did the right thing.”

Xiao Wu raised her head, puzzled looking at Grandmaster,

“Grandmaster, are you still saying he did the right thing? He could clearly have let that Huo Wu take the attack.”

Grandmaster sighed, saying:

“What little San did was for the sake of the Academy’s reputation, and also for your future. First of all, the five elemental academies are like siblings. If he had truly defeated seven of the Blazing Academy singlehandedly, then he would inevitably have roused the anger of the other three academies. And this hatred would also bear considerable fruit. Second, if he had really used Huo Wu’s body to block that attack, Huo Wu would definitely have died. Huo Wu is the genius of a generation to Blazing Academy, if she died, first let alone any powers behind her back, the reprisals from Blazing Academy alone would have deluged us in trouble. Tang San wanted to see that even less. You’re all students, there’s no deep hatred or great regret, therefore he chose this conclusion. I believe that when little San used his body to block the attack he had certainly already calculated his endurance and the opponent’s attack power.”

Grandmaster had always regarded Tang San as his own child. Seeing Tang San injured, how couldn’t he feel regretful?

But Grandmaster was always an intellectual, as soon as he knew Tang San wasn’t in any grave danger, his reason immediately took the fore, and simple analysis allowed him to confirm Tang San’s actions. Of course, this didn’t mean he didn’t care about Tang San’s injuries.

Xiao Wu sighed lightly, and didn’t say anything else. What she thought in her heart right now was that as long as Tang San was alright, nothing else mattered.

Just at this time, Dai Mubai’s ice cold voice suddenly resounded from outside,

“What are you doing here? Get out.”

“We came to see Tang San, and to express out thanks.”

The voice belonged to Huo Wushuang. Hearing this voice, Xiao Wu couldn't help frowning.

Outside the barracks, not only had Huo Wushuang come, but the full seven people of Blazing Academy's main force were here, including the still pale Huo Wu.

They had calmed down after the end of the match. Huo Wushuang couldn't help a burst of lingering fear. He of course had also seen his little sister's danger in the match, and if not for Tang San being lenient, he wouldn't have a little sister.

Even though Blazing Academy had lost in disgrace, only winning one fight, not only didn't Huo Wushuang hate Tang San, but was on the contrary extremely thankful. Compared to any achievements in the tournament, his little sister's life was clearly much more important.

And Huo Wu's position in Blazing Academy was as central as the moon amidst the stars, so the other team members felt about the same. After returning to the camp, Huo Wushuang had immediately proposed they go see Tang San.

Dai Mubai's ice cold gaze swept across them,

“No need for fake grief like cats weeping over dead mice. Tang San still isn't dead.”

Huo Wushuang frowned,

“Dai Mubai, don't be excessive. I came to see Tang San. To express my gratitude to him for letting off my little sister. It wasn't to see you. Get out of the way.”

By now, hearing the voices, apart from Tang San and Xiao Wu, the other four Shrek Seven Devils had also come over. Just like Dai Mubai, they didn't have any favorable impression of the Blazing Academy that caused Tang San such injuries. The four of them plus the four substitutes, eight people stood in a line, blocking the Blazing

Academy's path.

"Get out of here immediately. Otherwise, don't blame us for being impolite."

The double pupils in Dai Mubai's evil eyes were converging, clearly he was already almost unable to suppress his anger.

Currently, the Blazing Academy seven main force members had just participated in the ranking competition, and they had all consumed their spirit power to some extent. If it really came to a fight they wouldn't get off easy. Moreover, they originally came here to express their good will.

"I came to thank Tang San:"

The moment Huo Wushuang was about to erupt, Huo Wu suddenly stepped out, her pale charming face without any trace of irritability, instead it had become very serene. Her beautiful eyes held even more pondering and calm depth, like a changed person.

"No need. My ge is already asleep. Leave. Don't disturb his rest."

Xiao Wu stepped out of the room, staring icily at Huo Wu.

Even though Tang San's injuries had been caused by him using his body to cover for her, the originator of all evil was still Huo Wu. Xiao Wu naturally wouldn't have any good impression of this woman whose looks didn't lose to her.

Huo Wu looked at Xiao Wu moving out of the barracks, nodded and said:

"Then sorry for the disturbance. Once he's a bit better, I'll come express my gratitude again."

Xiao Wu declined without the slightest hesitation:

"No need. We're opponents in the Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament."

These words were equivalent to her pointing out that the two sides weren't friends.

Blazing Academy's people had just left when someone else came.

The arrival of Ning Fengzhi and Xue Qinghe was, on the surface, to represent the organizational committee to ask about Tang San's injuries. But in fact, Tang San wasn't the only person to be injured so far in the tournament, but only he had gotten this kind of attention.

After making certain Tang San wasn't in any grave danger, the two exchanged a few words with Grandmaster, then left. The barracks also finally quieted down.

Notes

1. (融环) "Melting/Blending/Merging/Harmony Ring"
2. 半尺 = $\frac{1}{2}$ m

Credits

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